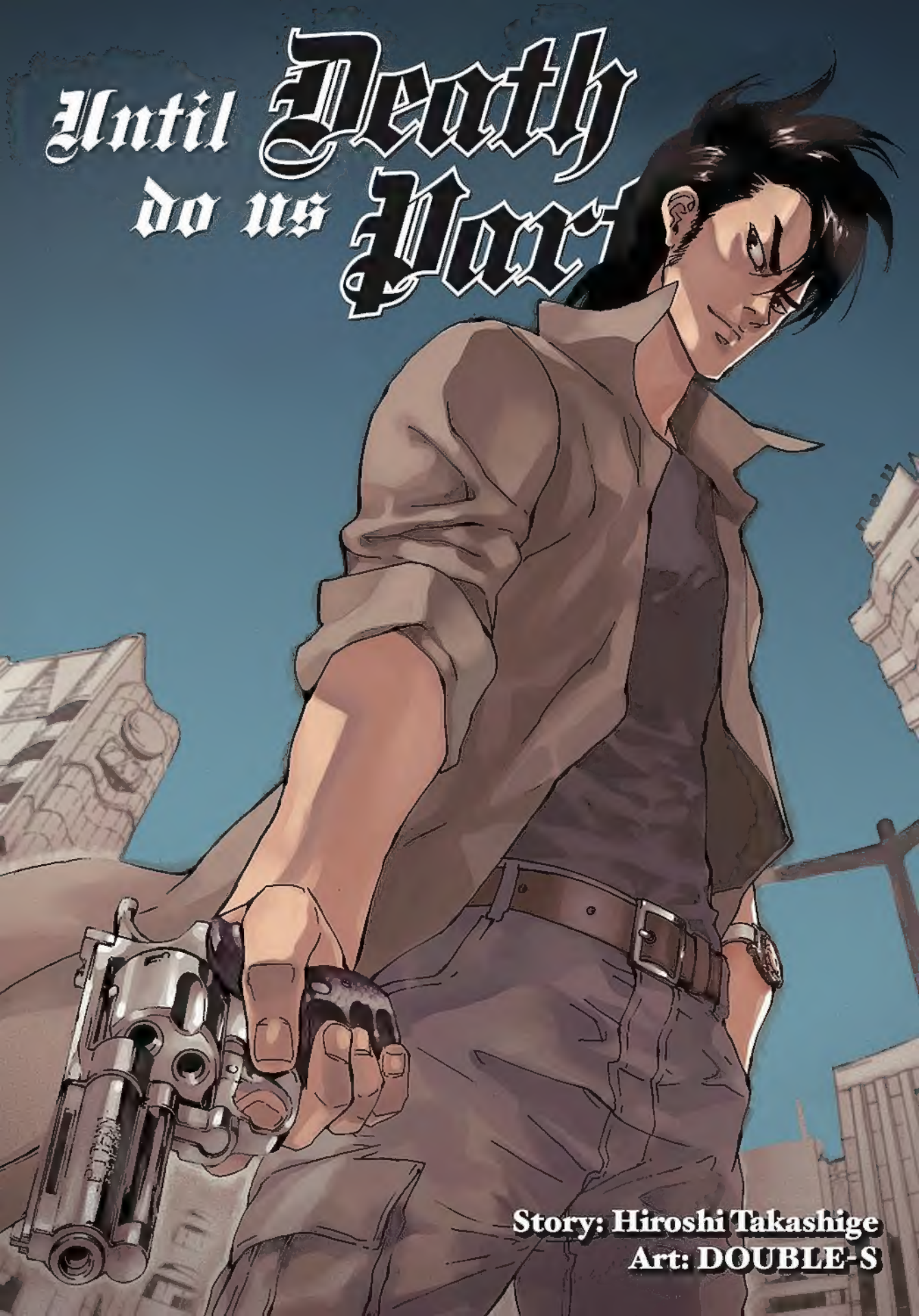
Until Death do us Part

7

Story:
Hiroshi Takashige

Art:
DOUBLE-S

Until Death do us Part



Story: Hiroshi Takashige
Art: DOUBLE-S

Until Death do us Part

Until Death do us Part

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 101 ----------007
SIDE STORY: JESUS -- 029
CHAPTER 102---------- 066
CHAPTER 103---------- 089
CHAPTER 104---------- 111
CHAPTER 105---------- 135
CHAPTER 106---------- 157
CHAPTER 107----------181
CHAPTER 108---------- 213
CHAPTER 109----------239
CHAPTER 110 ----------267
CHAPTER 111----------291
CHAPTER 112 ---------- 315
CHAPTER 113 ----------339
CHAPTER 114 ----------363
CHAPTER 115 ----------389

...IS THIS IT.....?
That's right.
KIKI (SCREECH)

chapter 101

THE FACT THAT IT'S NOT FALLING APART IS WHAT MAKES IT EXTRA-CREEPY...
Have no fear. Only the master lives here.
He bought this building before it could be condemned and renovated it to suit his purposes.
...

Please step inside. This elevator is the only way to reach the master.
The stairs are all sealed off for safety reasons.
ウィーン
LHIN (VWEEE)
!?
HE MUST BE RATHER FRIGHTENED TO DO ALL OF THIS.
For the quality of his sleep, he will spare no expense for sound-proofing and intruder prevention.
...SLEEP?
HYLULIN (VRRR)
ヒュウウウン
I'm sorry.
That's not correct, but he does hate having his sleep disturbed.

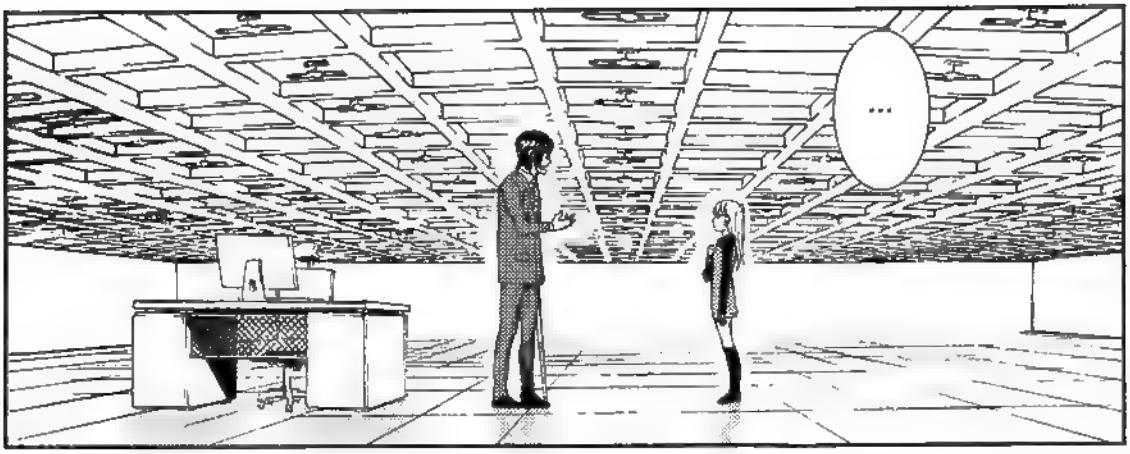
ウィーン
WHIN
HUH !?
Master suffers from an affliction that renders him an extreme insomniac.
ポ
PON (DING)
ン
Perhaps even worse, in fact.
It is beyond my comprehension, but I believe he suffers as you do, with the loss of your family...

Master, Miss Haruka Tooyama has arrived.
...UM...
CHA (CHK)
I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO ASK.
YOUR IDEAS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE NETWORK. THEY'RE BEING EVALUATED NOW.
SU (SHH)

???
IF THEY ARE ACCEPTED, SPARC WILL BE ABLE TO CONSTRUCT THE PROPER FRAME-WORK THAT WILL ENABLE US TO DEDICATE OUR FULL RESOURCES TO YOUR CAUSE.
"SPARK"? WHAT IS THAT?
INTRODUCE YOURSELF, SPARKY.
...
Thank you for coming, Miss Haruka.
ACK!

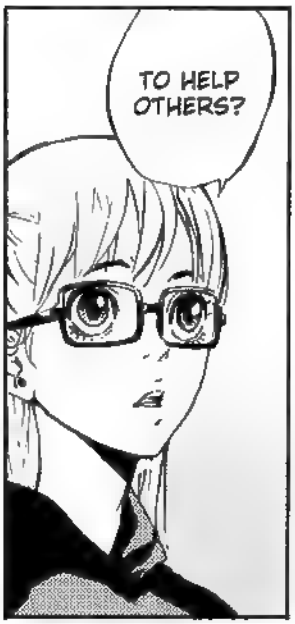
Forgive me for startling you. I am the personification of a quantum computer.
My official title is "Super Parallel Algorithm Resonance Computer." Master calls me SPARC for short.
SO... YOU'RE WHO I WAS SPEAKING TO THIS WHOLE TIME?
WH-WHAT IS THIS...?
INCREDIBLE, ISN'T HE? I DEVELOPED HIM.
HE'S TWENTY YEARS BEYOND ANY-THING MODERN SCIENCE CAN CREATE.
IT WAS ONLY THROUGH HIS CREATION THAT WE WERE ABLE TO MANAGE THE CURRENT WIDE-SPREAD FORM OF THE ELEMENT NETWORK ON THE INTERNET.
...

BY CONSTRUCTING A MASSIVE CLOUD-COMPUTING STRUCTURE BASED AROUND HIM, HIS OVERALL COMPUTING POWER WILL REACH ASTRONOMICAL HEIGHTS.
IT IS GROWING LARGER AND LARGER BY THE DAY.
WE'RE ALSO INVOLVED IN THE "MENTOR" SEARCH ENGINE, WHICH IS EARNING US VALUABLE OPERATION FUNDS.
SPARC ALONE HAS A COMPUTATIONAL POWER A TRILLION TIMES GREATER THAN THE FINEST SUPERCOMPUTER ACTIVE TODAY.
UH...
UMM...
FURTHERMORE, I GAVE HIM A PERSONALITY AND SIMPLIFIED THE MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE, ENACTING THE THREE LAWS OF ROBOTICS TO ENSURE THAT HE WILL AVOID HARMING ANY HUMAN BEINGS.
IN OTHER WORDS, AS LONG AS SPARC EXISTS, THE NETWORK DOES NOT REQUIRE MY MANAGEMENT IN THE LEAST.


...

HUH !?
OH, GREAT. I DID IT *AGAIN.* I'M SORRY.

THAT'S... AMAZING...


TO HELP OTHERS?

THE POINT IS, I NEEDED HIM IN ORDER TO HELP OTHERS.

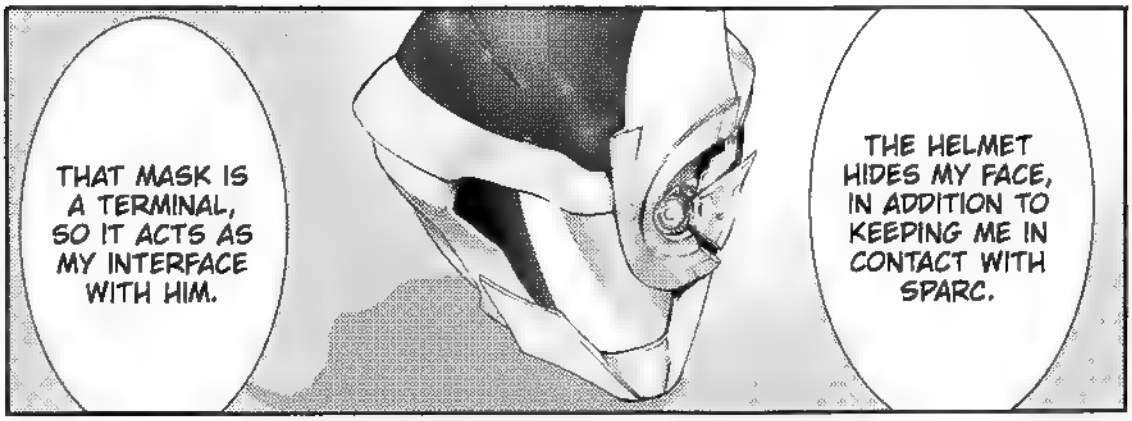
...
...WHY?
SAVING OTHERS IS WHAT SAVES ME FROM MY PAIN.
NO...TO BE MORE ACCURATE, TO HELP "ME."
BECAUSE LIKE YOU, I AM THE VICTIM OF A TERRIBLE CRIME.

YES... WELL ...
AT FIRST, I WENT THROUGH TERRIBLE STRETCHES OF STUDY AND FIERCE EXERCISE TO PUT MYSELF TO SLEEP...
...BUT THE THING ABOUT OUR BODIES IS, THEY ADJUST AND GROW ACCLIMATED.
IS THAT...WHY YOU CAN'T SLEEP?
I HAVEN'T FOUGHT THIS GUY YET...
HE AIN'T THE GENTLE SOUL HE APPEARS TO BE.
...
...
I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY MAMORU-SAN SAID WHAT HE DID...
...BUT THE WAY HE CARRIES HIMSELF TELLS ME HE KNOWS HOW TO HANDLE HIMSELF IN A FIGHT.

BY... HELPING OTHER PEOPLE?
...I DISCOVERED A WAY.
AND JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I'D LOST MY ABILITY TO SLEEP ENTIRELY...
YOU MUST BE IN A LOT OF PAIN...
YES...
THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE IN THE NETWORK IN SIMILAR CIR-CUMSTANCES.
THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY I WAS ABLE TO DREAM OF ACTUALLY SAVING MY MOTHER THIS TIME.

IT WILL TAKE A BIT MORE TIME TO HEAL.
BUT IF I'M NOT BACK ON THE JOB SOON, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO ARRANGE YOUR PLAN IN TIME.
OH.
ARE YOUR LEGS UNWELL?
BACK ON THE JOB...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHEN YOUR PLAN IS PUT INTO MOTION, WE MUST EXPEND A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF MANPOWER ON IT.
SO IF I AM NOT ON ACTIVE DUTY, THERE IS A SERIOUS POSSIBILITY THAT WE WILL BE UNDER-STAFFED.
WHILE I AM ONE OF THE SENIOR MANAGERS HERE, I WAS ALSO THE VERY FIRST MOBILIZED MEMBER OF THE ELEMENT NETWORK.
ORIGINALLY, I SERVED THE SAME ROLE THAT MAMORU HIJIKATA DOES NOW.

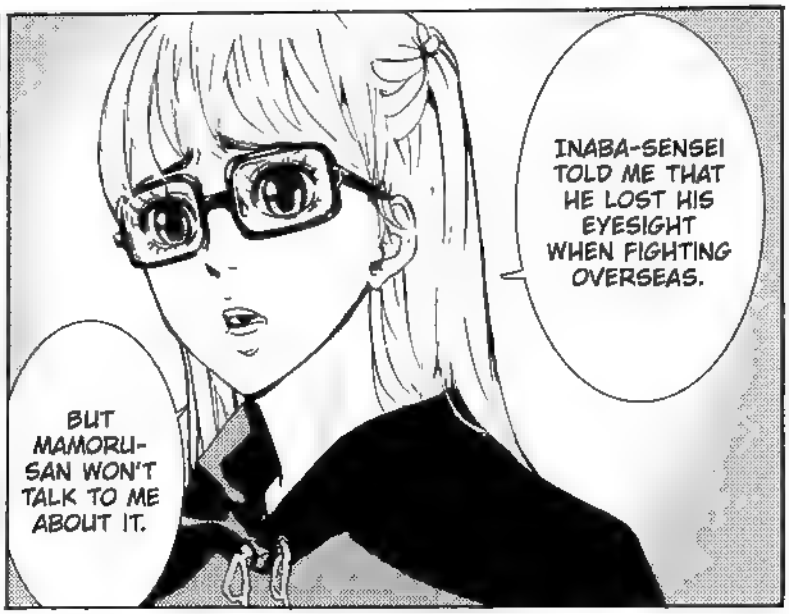
WE ARE CURRENTLY RUNNING THIRTEEN ANTI-SYNDICATE PROGRAMS.
ADDING ONE MORE IS ONLY SO MUCH EXTRA.
I'M SO SORRY ABOUT THIS...
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM.
SO YOU PUT THIS HELMET ON AND GO INTO THE FIELD...?
YES, I KNOW...I DID SOME RESEARCH ON YOU.
I'VE BEEN CALLED CRAZY BY MANY.
AND THIS BUSINESS HAS MADE ME A BIT OF A NAME.

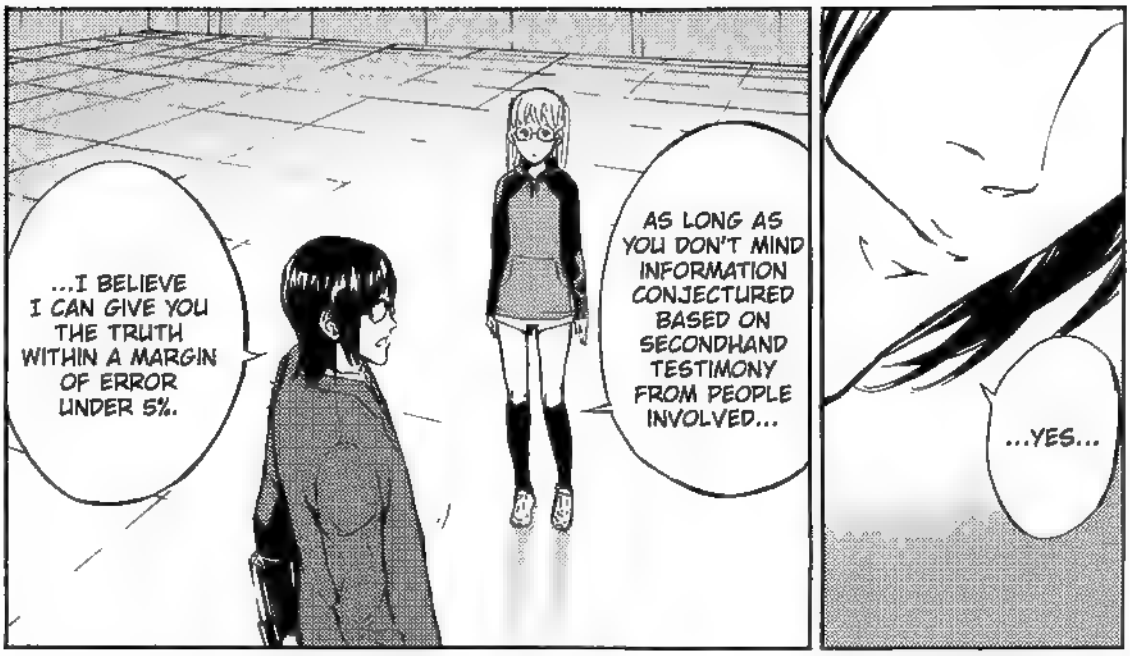

THAT MASK IS A TERMINAL, SO IT ACTS AS MY INTERFACE WITH HIM.
THE HELMET HIDES MY FACE, IN ADDITION TO KEEPING ME IN CONTACT WITH SPARC.

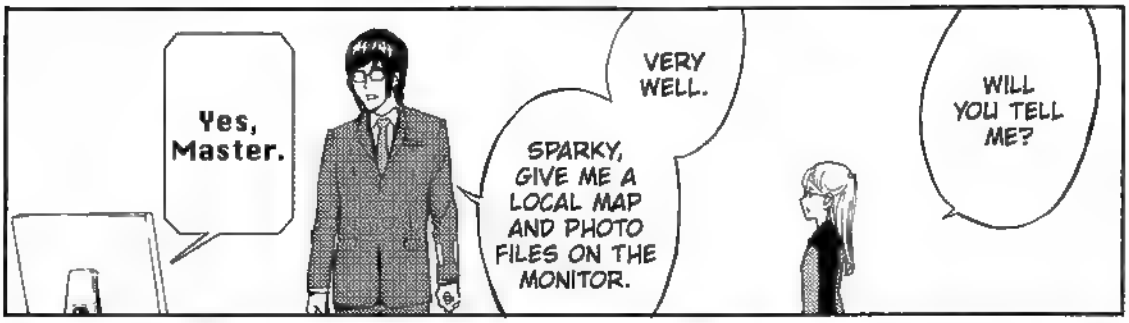
I DO NOT BELIEVE THIS WAS THE ONLY REASON FOR YOUR VISIT, CORRECT?
UM... IT'S ABOUT MAMORU-SAN...
OH, RIGHT!

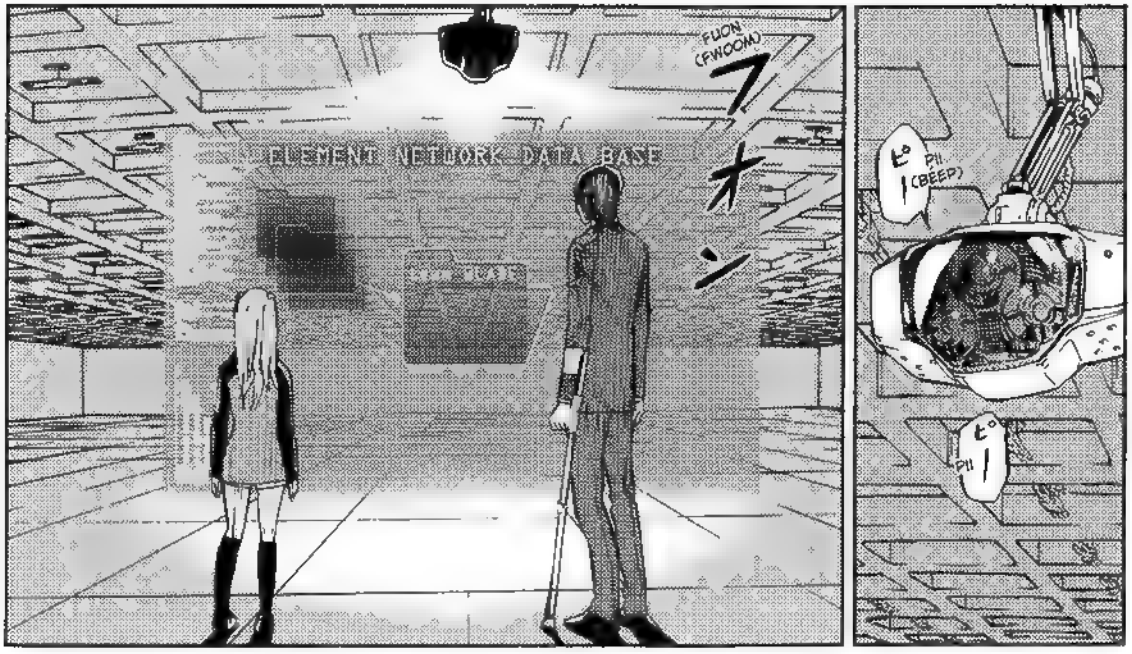
BY THE WAY...

I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WOULD KNOW...


INABA-SENSEI TOLD ME THAT HE LOST HIS EYESIGHT WHEN FIGHTING OVERSEAS.
BUT MAMORU-SAN WON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT IT.

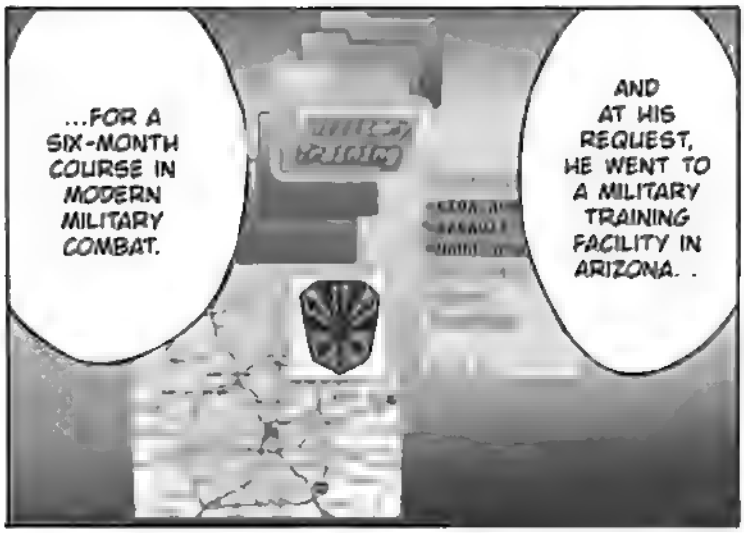

...I BELIEVE I CAN GIVE YOU THE TRUTH WITHIN A MARGIN OF ERROR UNDER 5%.
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T MIND INFORMATION CONJECTURED BASED ON SECONDHAND TESTIMONY FROM PEOPLE INVOLVED...
...YES...


Yes, Master.
VERY WELL.
SPARKY, GIVE ME A LOCAL MAP AND PHOTO FILES ON THE MONITOR.
WILL YOU TELL ME?


(FUON (FWOOM)
ELEMENT NETWORK DATA BASE
(BEEP)
PII
PII

FROM SENSEI!?
I SCOUTED MAMORU HIJIKATA PERSONALLY
I FIRST LEARNED OF HIM FROM INABA-SENSEI'S STORIES.

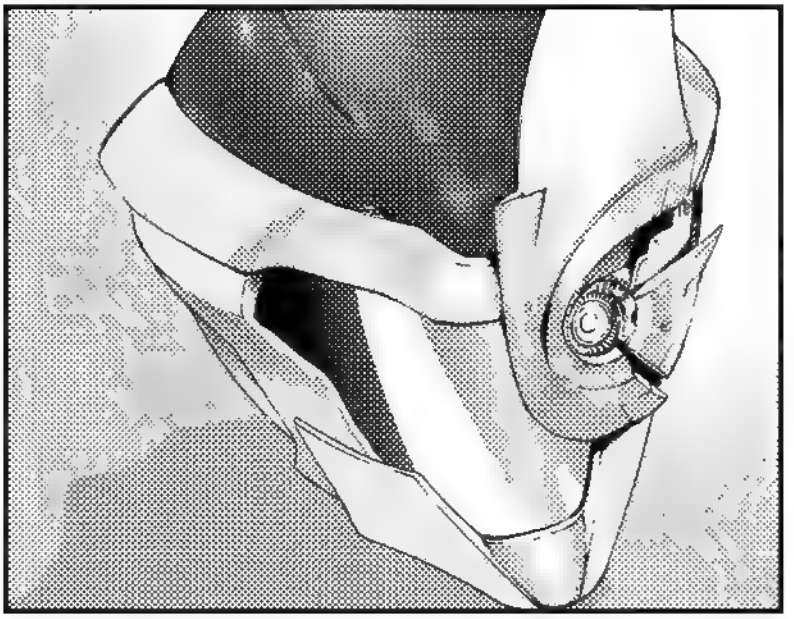
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I WAS ONE OF INABA'S BRIGHTEST PUPILS.
I'D NEVER MET MAMORU MYSELF, BUT I'D HEARD THAT HE WAS A TERRIBLY POWERFUL MAN.


...FOR A SIX-MONTH COURSE IN MODERN MILITARY COMBAT.
AND AT HIS REQUEST, HE WENT TO A MILITARY TRAINING FACILITY IN ARIZONA. .

IN ORDER TO HIRE HIM, I HAD TO PROVIDE HIM WITH A PLACE TO FIGHT

ピッ
ピッ
ピッ
YES.
REALLY? MAMORU-SAN TOOK MILITARY TRAINING?
AS THE SAYING GOES, "KNOW YOUR ENEMY AND YOU KNOW YOURSELF."
HE MIGHT BE A PRODIGY OF THE ANCIENT WAYS OF THE SWORD, BUT WITHOUT PROPER KNOWLEDGE OF MODERN GUN COMBAT, HE HAD NO MEANS OF OVERCOMING IT.

CHECHEN
TO THE WAR-TORN CHECHEN REPUBLIC
HE PASSED THE COURSE WITH FLYING COLORS AND EXCELLED IN TRAVEL BY THE ELEMENT NETWORK'S MOST DANGEROUS AREA OF OPERATIONS.
WHERE HE MET A MAN WHO PROVED QUITE IMPORTANT



Until
Death
do us
Part

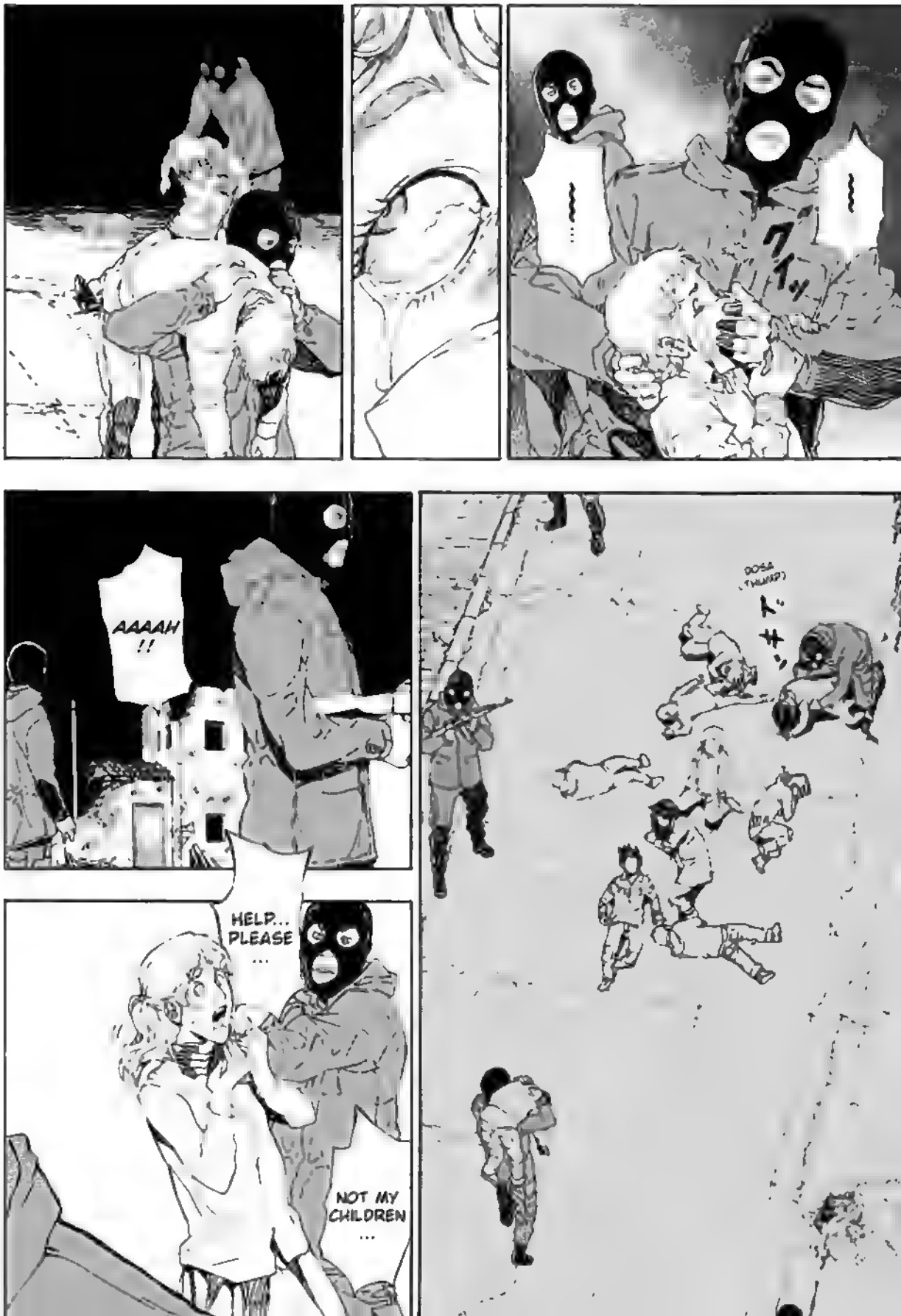
Chechen Operation
A MYSTERIOUS SQUAD APPEARED IN CHECHNYA, KIDNAPPING CHILDREN FOR THE NEFARIOUS PURPOSES OF THEIR CRIMINAL OUTFIT.
BUT THE POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND ALMOST TOTAL LACK OF ANY LAW-KEEPING BODY MEANT THAT THESE CRIMINALS WERE FREE TO DO WHATEVER THEY WISHED, A STATE OF AFFAIRS WE COULDN'T OVERLOOK.
WE HAD NO INTENTION OF POLITICAL INTERFERENCE IN THIS LONG-RUNNING CONFLICT.
MAMORU HIJIKATA WAS PLACED...
...IN A GROUP SEEKING TO BREAK UP THAT DARK BUSINESS.
PHOTO DATA
Chechen

side story:
jesus

side story:
jesus

CHECH-
NYA
OUR MISSION IS TO DRIVE OUT THE ARMED INVADERS THAT SEEK TO DO THEIR DIRTY WORK HERE IN THE LAWLESS REGION OF CHECHNYA!
...
YOU ARE REQUIRED TO AVOID KILLING TO THE UTMOST OF YOUR ABILITY!

WHY'S HE THE ONLY ONE WHO GETS SPECIAL ORDERS?
AND THE FACT THAT WE'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANYTHING HE DOES...THIS ISN'T THE NETWORK'S STYLE.
...
GUY'S A REAL CREEP...
MOVE OUT!
AH ...


AAAAH !!
HELP... PLEASE ...
NOT MY CHILDREN ...

M-
MOMMY
—!!
AAAH
!!
WELL, AREN'T YOU A NICE GUY.
I COULD CUT YOU AND YOUR BROTHER TO PIECES RIGHT HERE.
DON'T MAKE A SOUND UNTIL I SAY YOU CAN.
MM
...
REMEMBER, YOU DON'T NEED ARMS AND LEGS TO LIVE.
AAAH
...

AAAGH!!
DOGO (THWUD)
WHOA!
JUST LIKE THIS.
HYU (SWIP)
!?
I WOULD HAVE MADE SURE SHE NEVER MADE A SOUND FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE.
AAAHH!!

EEEP!
GO INSIDE AND FIND A PLACE TO HIDE.
...!
...!?
...!!
パ
PAKU
パ
PAKU (FLAP)
HRR
HRR

FUCKING SCUM!

AAAHH!!
AAAGH!!

WHAT'S THE DAM-AGE?
ANYONE WITH A FREE HAND, GUIDE THE KIDS TO SAFETY.
UGH ...
NO CASUALTIES FOR US, BUT THEY GOT AWAY WITH THE FIRST THREE KIDS THEY NABBED.
AAAH ...
GOOD LOOKIN' OUT, SAMURAI.

A SWORD-MASTER CAN LEAVE HIS PREY DEAD OR ALIVE AT WILL.
NO UNNECESSARY KILLING, NO DANGER OF STRAY ROUNDS HITTING THE KIDS.
MIGHT BE AN ASSHOLE, BUT YOU DO GOOD WORK.
...
THEY'RE LIKE LOOTERS AFTER A FIRE!
STEALIN' ORPHANS FROM A WAR-TORN COUNTRY...
IS THERE ANOTHER GROUP ATTACKING THESE SCUMBAGS?
RRGH... WAS IT YOU...?
THE GUYS WHO KEEP ATTACKING US!?

WHERE'S YOUR MAIN FORCE!?
GUI (YANK)
EEEP!
ACCORDING TO INTEL, THEIR CORPS' GOT SIX SQUADS IN ACTION.
ZA MARCH
ZA
ZA
WILLFUL SON OF A BITCH!
I'M GOIN' SCOUTING.
WE CAN'T LET THEM PULL FREE.
HEY! NO GOING AWOL! WE NEED TO EXTRACT AND CALL FOR BACKUP FIRST!!

SASA (SWISH)
I DON'T HEAR ANY INSECTS, WHICH MEANS SOMEBODY'S MOVING AROUND.
BUT I DON'T SEE ANY SNIPERS— I DON'T EVEN SENSE ANYONE HIDING.
CASA (RUSTLE)
ZA
ZA
THE SMELL OF BLOOD ...

THERE IS SOMEONE ELSE OUT THERE PICKING THESE GUYS OFF.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN...
ANOTHER ONE GOT PIERCED THROUGH THE HEART WITH A THROWING KNIFE AS HE TURNED AROUND
PROBABLY HAD NO TIME TO SCREAM.
ONE HAD HIS THROAT RIPPED OUT FROM BEHIND NO SIGNS OF STRUGGLE.

MUST BE AN INCREDIBLY STEALTHY ASSASSIN ...
...SOME-WHERE UP AHEAD.
SUU (SLIP)
スウ
ZA (ZSHH)
ザ

SA
(SWISH)
KIN
(KTING)
THERE HE IS...
A TRUE WOLF AMONG ALL THE SHEEP WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING!

DA DASH!
SOMEONE TOO DANGEROUS TO TREAT LIGHTLY...
FASCI-NATING.
WHOEVER HE IS, HE THINKS HE CAN FACE ME WITH A SWORD!?
FIRST B AND C, NOW F SQUAD HAS GONE SILENT!
WHAT !?
CAP-TAIN!

WHOEVER THESE FUCKS THINK THEY ARE, THEY'RE GONNA LEARN NOT TO MESS WITH THE TRANSPLANT CONNECTION.
JAKI (CH-CHK)

THAT'S NOT RIGHT. THERE AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE ANY RUSSIAN OR CHECHEN TROOPS IN THIS AREA.
MUST MEAN THERE'S A THIRD PARTY ASIDE FROM US.

CALL BACK THE OTHER SQUADS AND BEEF UP THE CAMP PERIMETER!!
WHEN MORNING BREAKS, WE FIGHT BACK AND WIPE THESE FUCKERS OUT!!

TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
BISHI (PSHU)
ビシ
ZAZA (SLIDE)
ザザッ
...
SUU (SHH)
スゥ
THE PERFECT CHANCE TO TEST MYSELF.
IF I CAN HANG WITH A FOE LIKE THIS GUY, MY STYLE CAN HANDLE ANY KIND OF MODERN WARFARE.
SURU (SLIP)
スル…

THIS GUY'S A FIND!
HE AVOIDS MY EVERY ATTACK, AND HIS BLOOD-LUST GROWS CLOSER.
BUT JUST 'COS YOU USE A SWORD DOESN'T MEAN I'LL UNDER-ESTIMATE YOU!
WHERE DID HE GO!?
DANGEROUS TO LET HIM GET CLOSE.

BUO (WHOOSH)
TA (RAT)
TA
TA
TA

!?
TA (FAIR)
TA
TA
TA
KIN (KTING)
NO WAY... HE'S CUTTING DOWN JUST THE BULLETS THAT WOULD HIT HIM ...?
SO THERE'S MORE THAN ONE MAN IN THE WORLD WHO CAN DO THAT!?
A PRECISE COUNTER-ATTACK... I CAN'T GET TOO CLOSE.
BUT IF I GIVE HIM ENOUGH DISTANCE, HE'LL KILL ME.
NOW IT'S MY TURN.

カチッ
ダッ
カ
ガチャッ
バ
ガ
ガッ

ガ
ガ
ガ

YOU FOUGHT WELL...
NOT BAD AT ALL...
FIGHTING BACK WITH A BLINDING MOVE...
INHUMAN MONSTER!
SAVE IT FOR WHEN YOU'VE WON, YOU SON OF A BITCH!!
BA (SNATCH)
GORO (ROLL)

THIS IS FUN...

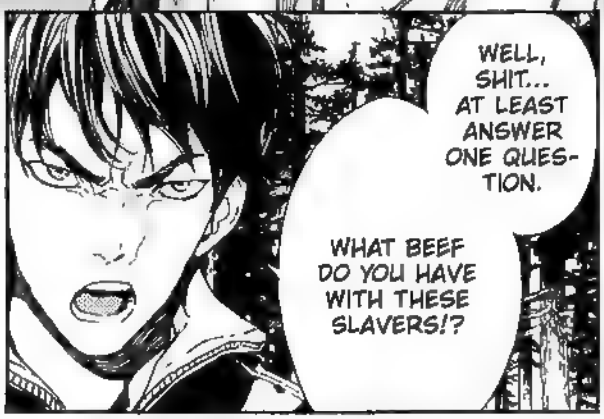
WAIT!
DON'T GO THAT...
WAAAH! MAMA!
CASA (RUSTLE)
BA
BA (SWOOSH)

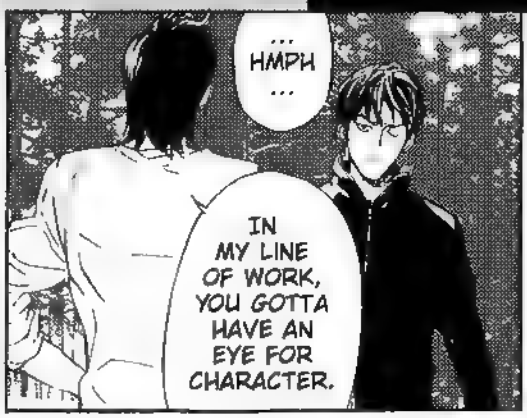
...!?
B-BUT THE GUNSHOTS WERE SO CLOSE...
I TOLD YOU TO STAY HIDDEN!

...IN ORDER TO SELL 'EM OFF TO RICH CUSTOMERS. THEY'RE THE LOWEST OF THE LOW, THE GRUNT FORCE OF AN INTERNATIONAL SLAVERY RING.
THEY ROUND UP KIDS WHEREVER THEY CAN FIND 'EM AROUND THE WORLD, CUT 'EM UP, AND TAKE THEIR BEST ORGANS...
THEY'RE THE TRANSPLANT CONNECTION.
I SEE.
IF YOU'RE NOT WITH THOSE SCUMBAGS, WHY ARE YOU HERE!? SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THAT GROUP, WHOEVER THEY ARE.

THE ROAD FROM HERE TO TOWN IS SAFE.
SO LET'S HEAD BACK, OKAY?
I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SETTLE WITH THE CAPTAIN OF THE CONNECTION CORPS. THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.
OR MAYBE THIS FELLA WILL ESCORT US?
HELL NO.
STAY BACK IN YOUR USUAL HIDEOUT...
...UNTIL I COME FOR YOU.
GOT THAT?
SHOULD HAVE KNOWN...

YOU'RE NOT THE KIND OF GUY WHO'D ATTACK A MAN FROM BEHIND...


WELL, SHIT... AT LEAST ANSWER ONE QUESTION.
WHAT BEEF DO YOU HAVE WITH THESE SLAVERS!?


... HMPH ...
IN MY LINE OF WORK, YOU GOTTA HAVE AN EYE FOR CHARACTER.

THESE GUYS ARE ONE OF MY LEADS.
I'VE BEEN TRACKING DOWN THE LIKELY DESTINATIONS OF SOME STUDENTS OF MINE WHO WERE ABDUCTED BACK IN KADDAS.

...
SO THE CONNECTION'S CENTRALIZED AROUND GERMANY...
HOW DO I GET IN CONTACT WITH THEM!?

OH YEAH?
THEN I GUESS I GOTTA FIND THAT PIECE OF SHIT AND ASK HIM MYSELF.

KACHIN (CLICK)
カチン
I DON'T LIKE THIS ONE BIT.

I DUNNO!
ONLY MY BOSS KNOWS !!

SO YOU'RE PUTTING THESE KIDS THROUGH HELL WITHOUT A SINGLE GOOD REASON.
BA (SWISH)
JESUS !!

THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL ME.
DON (BLAM)
REMEMBER IT WHEN YOU GET TO HELL.

...
JESUS...
J... JESUS IS HERE?
...CAP-TAIN?
...!
—!

AND HE AND MAMORU CLEANED UP ALL THESE GUYS ALONE ...
EVERY YEAR OR SO, I HEAR NEW RUMORS ABOUT HIS DEATH, BUT I NEVER EXPECTED HIM TO POP UP HERE!
IT'S JESUS!
ONE OF THE DEADLIEST HITMEN I KNOW WORKING TODAY!
JESUS... A HIRED KILLER WITH THE NAME OF THE SAVIOR ...
AND THEY WIPED OUT ALL THESE ENEMIES IN THE MEAN-TIME!?
YOU MEAN... HE FOUGHT JESUS ON EQUAL FOOTING!?
...
I KNEW THAT GUY WAS SOME-THIN' ELSE ...
BA
BA
BA
NOOO!!!

KA
(KSHK)

chapter 102

JESUS
NEST
OF
GEESE

Such a fascinating reaction
I don't know...
Real name and age unknown and under investigation
"Jesus."

He's made enemies of syndicates all over the world. We know of at least ten he's reduced to rubble..
..and he's been pronounced dead eight times...
Some figures are spoken of as legends in the underworld, and he is one of them.
He's a killer for hire — a hitman.
IT'S WHAT COMES NEXT THAT'S THE CRUX OF THE MATTER.
...yet here he is, as you can see.

THREE YEARS AGO, CHECHNYA
GASA (RUSTLE)
ガサ
ス
?
SU (SHH)

I SAW YOU... BACK IN TOWN...
ズズ…
(ZUZU (DRAG)
<XXXX STRONG XX XXX THANK YOU XXX XXXXX...?

DON'T TOUCH 'EM.
IT'S DANGER-OUS TO BE HANGING AROUND HERE, KIDS.
...WHAT'S SHE SAYIN'?
I ONLY KNOW A FEW BASIC WORDS IN CHECHEN.
CAN'T UNDER-STAND A FULL SENTENCE FOR SHIT.
WE'RE ON PATROL HERE. REMEMBER, THIS IS A PREDOMINANTLY ISLAMIC REGION.
IF THEY'RE STRAPPED, WE'LL BE BLOWN TO PIECES.
THE KIDS MIGHT NOT HAVE A PROBLEM WITH US, BUT YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT SOME TERRORISTS WITH A BONE TO PICK MIGHT FORCE THEM TO DO TO US.
?
SUICIDE BOMB-ERS...?
YOU GOT AN ACTIVE IMAGINATION, MAN...

PLUS, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'VE GOT NAMETAGS IDENTIFYING OURSELVES, SO AS FAR AS ANYONE HERE KNOWS, WE'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM THE TPC.
ALL RIGHT.
GUESS I CAN FIND SOMEONE WHO SPEAKS THE LOCAL LANGUAGE IN THE SQUAD.
SO IF YOU DON'T WANT HER TO GET DRAWN INTO THIS MESS, THINK ABOUT YOUR ACTIONS FIRST.
<XXX XXX>
<XXXX XXXX>
<XXX XXX>
<XXX XXX>
SUCH A DAMN SHAME, THOUGH...

<XXX XXX>
<XX XX>
...
HER NAME'S ELENA. SAID SHE HEARD FROM A FRIEND.
<E...>
<ELENA.>

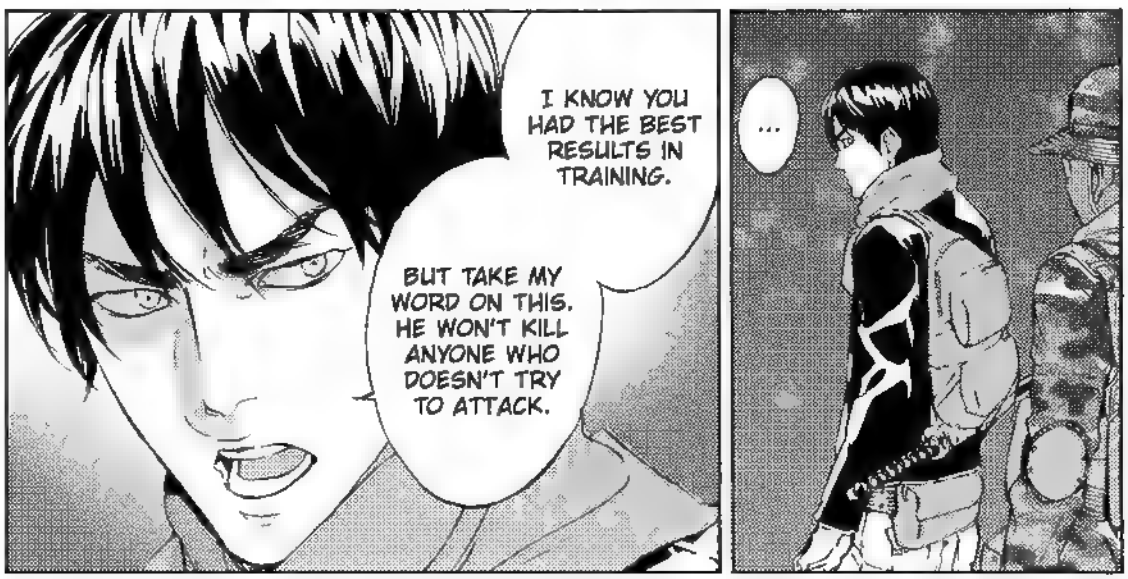
SHE SAYS A GREAT SAMURAI SAVED HER, AND SHE WANTS TO THANK YOU.

JUST BE A BIT MORE TACTFUL ABOUT IT THAN HIM, YEAH?
OK.
I DON'T NEED THANKS.
THIS AREA'S DANGEROUS. SEND 'EM HOME.
<XXX XXX>
<XX XX>

SOME-
THING AT
THE BACK
OF MY
MIND.
DON'T
SENSE MUCH
OF ANYTHING
OUT THERE...
BUT STILL,
SOMETHING'S
WRONG.

I DON'T DO THIS JOB FOR THE GRATITUDE.
PLUS, IT WASN'T ME WHO SAVED THAT BOY SHE BROUGHT— THAT WAS JESUS.
YOU'RE CRAZY, MAN... HOW OFTEN DO YOU GET FIRSTHAND THANKS FROM THE PEOPLE YOU SAVE?

WHAT !?
BUT...
...DON'T EVEN FIRE. JUST RUN AT FIRST SIGHT. THAT'S YOUR ONLY HOPE FOR SURVIVAL.
I'LL TELL YOU THIS: IF YOU EVER RUN ACROSS HIM...
WHAT WAS HE LIKE?
SPEAK-ING OF JESUS ...


I KNOW YOU HAD THE BEST RESULTS IN TRAINING.
BUT TAKE MY WORD ON THIS. HE WON'T KILL ANYONE WHO DOESN'T TRY TO ATTACK.
...

HE'S ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL ENTIRELY. LEGENDS AND TALL TALES DON'T EVEN BEGIN TO COVER IT.
IF I HAD TO SUM HIM UP WITH ONE WORD, IT WOULD BE "DANGER." I'VE MET PLENTY OF FIRST-RATE SOLDIERS IN TRAINING AND THE FIELD, BUT NEVER ONE AS DEADLY AS HIM.
BECAUSE I AIN'T DOING THIS AS A VOLUNTEER JOB.
THERE'S A SIG-NIFICANCE TO THE MEANS AND THE PROCESS!
BUT MAMORU... WHY'D YOU FIGHT HIM, THEN?
AS LONG AS THE NETWORK DOESN'T ORDER US TO KILL HIM, YOUR BEST STRATEGY IS TO RUN FOR YOUR LIFE.

THE SQUAD THAT ATTACKED WASN'T THE MAIN FORCE, POPS.
You already polished them off? Splinter force or not, I'm disappointed by the enemy's lack of grit.
...

I HAPPENED TO GET SOME SIGNIFICANT HELP FOR THE UP CLOSE COMBAT—A GUY AT LEAST AS TOUGH AS TATE THE AEGIS.
MADE THE JOB NICE AND QUICK.
KACHA (CLICK)

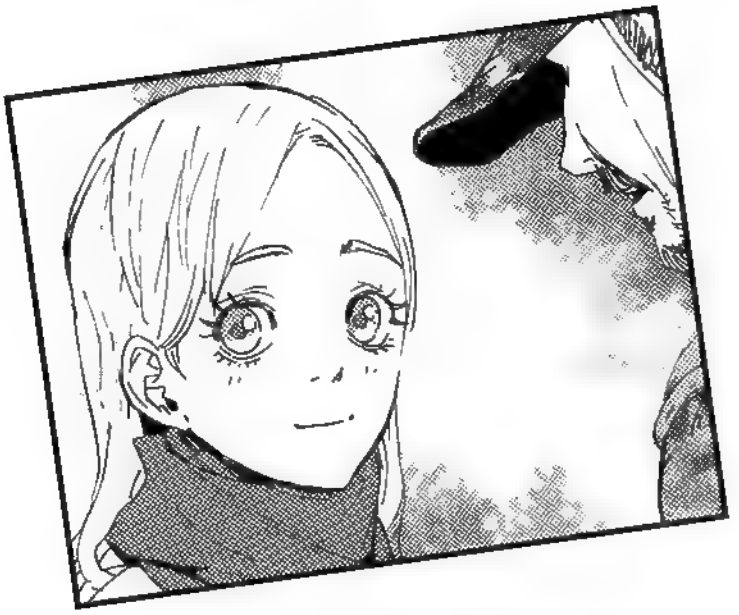
I'm surprised you don't know about him already, Old Goose. Don't have time to explain in detail, but he was a real badass.
YOU STUMBLED ACROSS A GUY THAT GOOD...?
NOT MUCH ACTUAL COMBAT EXPERIENCE, BUT THE THINGS HE DID COULD ONLY BE POSSIBLE THROUGH INTENSE TRAINING.
"GENIUS" DOESN'T EVEN BEGIN TO COVER IT.
...
I'll look into it. Just watch out. The squad's boss is a well-known mercenary by the name of "Orion."
They've also got the "Canes Venatici" working under 'em.

I'LL FIND 'EM AND SNUFF 'EM OUT, WHEREVER THEY'RE HIDING!!
HMPH! THESE ARE THE LOWEST OF THE LOW— HARVESTING ORGANS FROM WAR ORPHANS I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO SPARE A SINGLE ONE.

YEAH, YEAH.
WE'RE CLEARING OUT OF THE AREA WITHIN THE HOUR!
CHASING DOWN THE TPC, OBVIOUSLY.
NOBODY'S GONNA BE ATTACKING US HERE ANYMORE. WHERE TO NEXT?
MAIN FORCE, HUH...?
THAT SQUAD WAS ALREADY LARGE ENOUGH. COULD BE MORE THAN WE CAN CHEW.
THEIR MAIN FORCE HAS TO BE FAIRLY CLOSE.

?
THEY MIGHT BE WIPED OUT BY THE TIME WE FIND 'EM, YOU KNOW.
KADDAS...
ANOTHER MIDDLE-EASTERN COUNTRY WRACKED BY CIVIL WARS AND ETHNIC CONFLICT. THEIR DOMESTIC SITUATION IS SIMILAR TO CHECHNYA'S.
JESUS HASN'T COMPLETED HIS MISSION YET.
I'VE BEEN TRACKING DOWN THE LIKELY DESTINATIONS OF SOME STUDENTS OF MINE WHO WERE ABDUCTED BACK IN KADDAS.

MAMORU ...?
TALKIN' TO MY-SELF.
AND THAT'S WHERE THIS LEGENDARY KILLER WAS A SCHOOL-TEACHER WATCHING OVER THE LITTLE KIDDIES ...
HEH-HEH... AIN'T THAT IRONIC?
FOR WHATEVER REASON, HE LIVES ON THE BATTLEFIELD WITH ONE FOOT TIPTOEING INTO NORMAL LIFE, WHILE I'M THE OTHER WAY AROUND.
AND THAT DIFFERENCE LED OUR PATHS TO CROSS.



Until
Death
do us
Part

WEAPONRY LIMITED TO "JAWS" WHEN WE MOVE IN.

THE "CANES VENATICI" MUST DEMONSTRATE ITS ABILITY AND WORTH TO ORION!

chapter 103

…
ダッ
(TEK)
ダッ

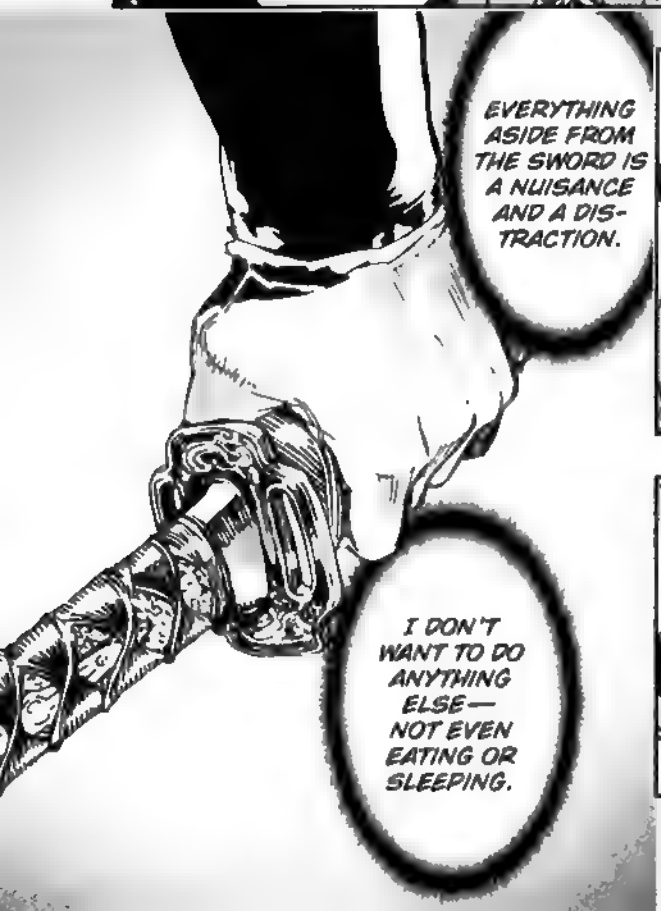
ヒュッ
HYU (SWISH)
ユラ
YURA (LURCH)
WHAT'S UP?

AH!?

BUSHUU (SPURT)
ドズッ
DOSU (THWUMP)
EEEP!
BA (BSHH)

HEY, MAMORU, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK YA SOME-THING.
WHAT'S WITH THE FIXATION ON THAT OLD-FASHIONED WEAPON?

...
EARLIER YOU SAID SOMETHING LIKE, "A MASTER IN ONE FIELD IS MASTER OF ALL."
AND I GET THAT, I REALLY DO...BUT YOU GOTTA KNOW HOW UNSUITED THAT IS TO THE BATTLE-FIELD.


EVERYTHING ASIDE FROM THE SWORD IS A NUISANCE AND A DIS-TRACTION.
I DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING ELSE— NOT EVEN EATING OR SLEEPING.

EH?

...

YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND IF I TOLD YOU...
ACTUALLY, EVEN I DON'T QUITE GET IT. I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT.

WHAT IS IT?
...THE BIRDS ARE SILENT...
H-HEY, WAIT!
DA (DASH)
!?
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE RUNNING RECON!
NOT MY PROBLEM! IF IT'S JUST MY IMAGINATION, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
ARGH... WE'D BETTER NOT GET REPRIMANDED FOR PULLING THIS SHIT!

AW, SHIT... EVEN THE CAPTAIN ...
VERY PROFES-SIONAL.
...FOR LOOKING SO NASTY, THIS WAS REAL CLEAN WORK...

WAIT!
GOTTA REPORT TO THE SECOND-IN-COMMAND...
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THEY'D STRIKE BACK AT ANY MOMENT.
DAMN... I LET MY GUARD DOWN BECAUSE WE WEREN'T IN AN OBVIOUS COMBAT SITUATION ...
DON'T MOVE. TOUCH YOUR RADIO, AND THEY'LL SWARM US AT ONCE.
HUH?
ZA (SHH)

THE ENEMY ?
ARE THEY... AROUND?
THEY ATTACK SILENTLY, WITHOUT GUNS, TO AVOID TIPPING OFF ANY OTHER FORCES IN THE AREA.
GOTTA BE CAUTIOUS ...
AS SOON AS OUR MAIN FORCE KNOWS ABOUT THEM, THEY'LL OPEN UP, GUNS BLAZING.
THEY LEFT BEHIND A SMALL FORCE TO KEEP TABS ON THE SCENE IN CASE ANY-ONE COMES BACK HERE.
REAL THOROUGH WORK.
...
SUSU (SHH)
WHICH MEANS... WHAT'S OUR OPTION?
AVOID USING FIREARMS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE.
GU (GRIP)

...FUCK...
...
THEY'RE COMING
...
...
THEY'RE COMING
...
HERE THEY ARE!
DON (SHOVE)

ヤバい

BA
(LEAD)
HYUN
(SWISH)
CACA
(CSMJK)
KIN
(CLANG)
HYUO
(SWOOSH)

HYUN
BASHAA (SPLASH)
ZA (ZSHH)

IT'S A HIGH-LEVEL HIT-AND-RUN TACTIC THEY'RE USING.
SAME BASIC IDEA THAT PACK ANIMALS LIKE WILD DOGS USE.
I SEE...
IF I EXTEND MYSELF TO COUNTER-ATTACK ONE WHEN HE COMES IN CLOSE, HE'LL EVADE MY SWORD...
...AND A SECOND OR THIRD WAVE WILL HIT ME WHILE I'M OCCUPIED. THIS'LL BE A PAIN IN THE ASS.
!
THEY'RE BAD NEWS... PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A TOUGH FIGHT.
THEY MUST NOT WANT OUR MAIN FORCE TO KNOW ABOUT THEM, BECAUSE THEY'RE A SMALL TEAM OF ELITE SOLDIERS.

KEEP YOUR GUN UP AND FOCUS ONLY ON PROTECTING MY BACK.
IF WORST COMES TO WORST, FIRE TO ALERT THE REST OF THE GROUP.
OF COURSE, IF IT COMES TO THAT, WE'RE PROBABLY DEAD...
...

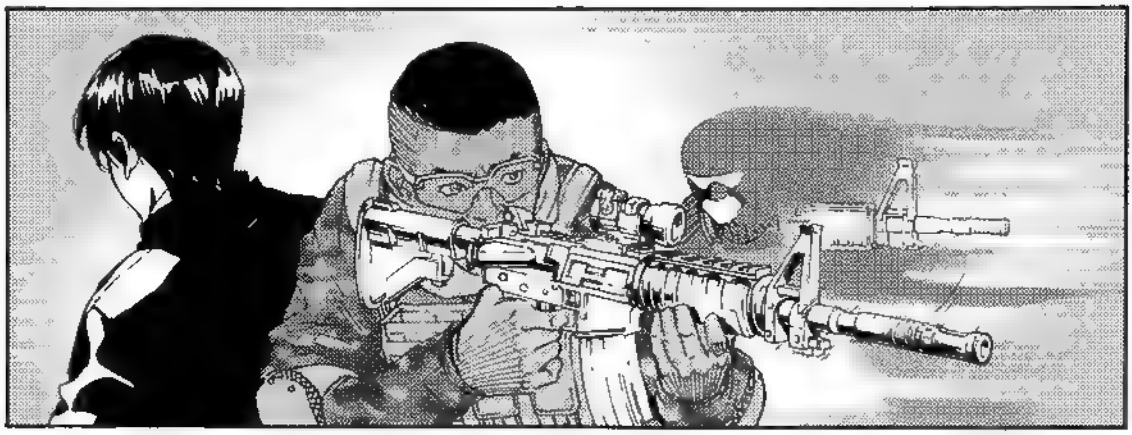
I SWEAR THAT'S GOT TO BE THE WORST WAY TO KILL A MAN.
HERE THEY COME AGAIN

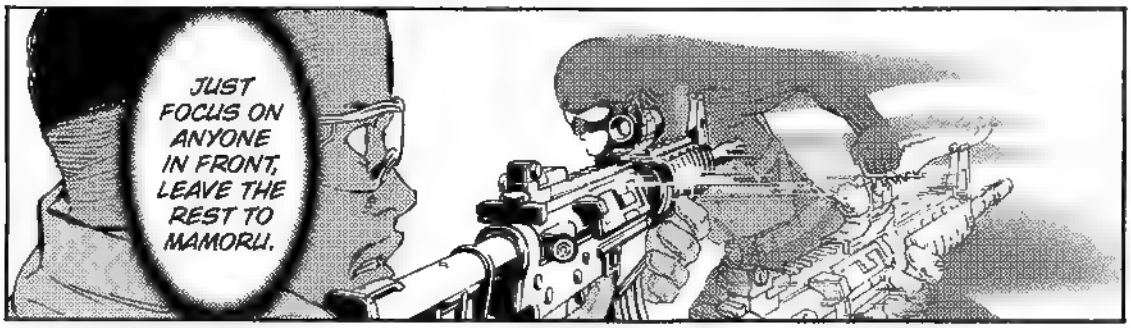
Until
Death
do us
Part

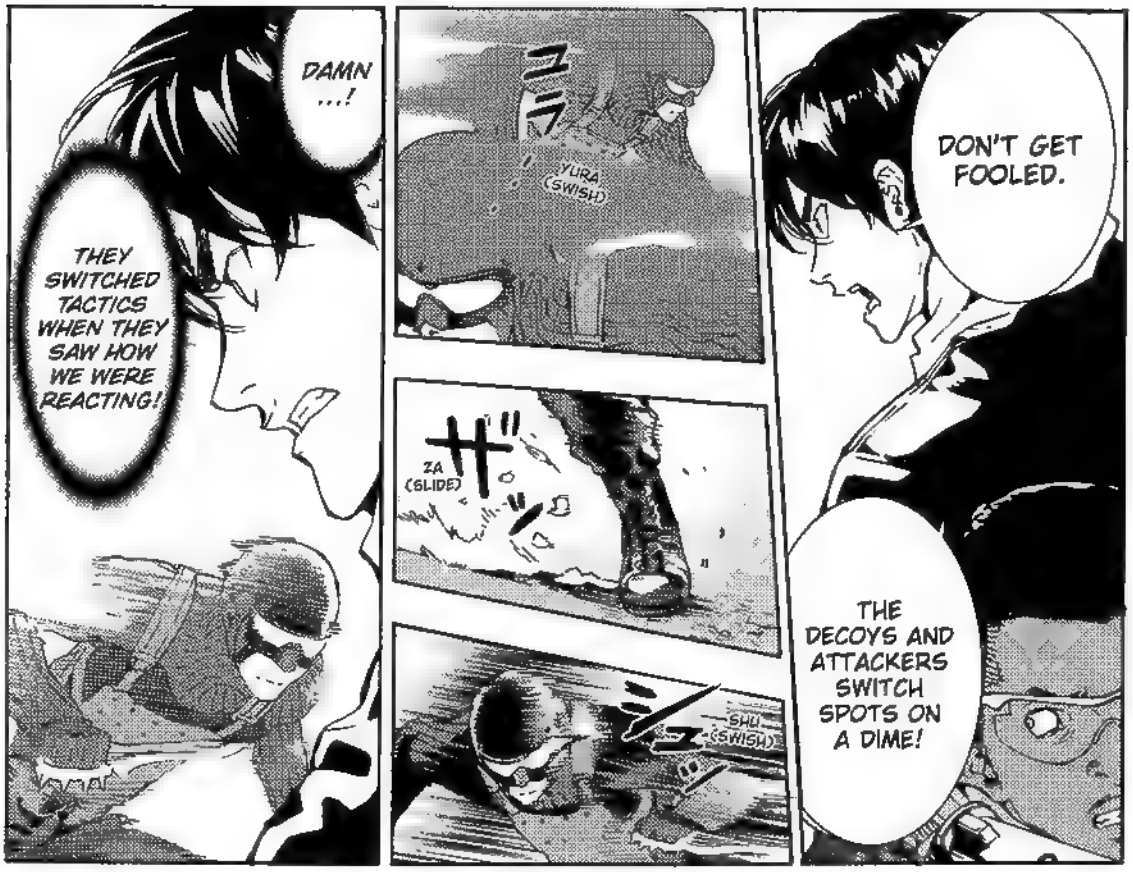
HILARIOUS.
HEH-HEH...
HE'S GONNA FIGHT OUR GROUP WITH A KATANA?
BUT HE'S FIGHTING THE CANES VENATICI—WHO EXCEL AT COORDINATED ASSAULTS—WHILE DRAGGING AROUND A THIRD WHEEL...
CAN HE ACTUALLY SURVIVE ON HIS OWN?

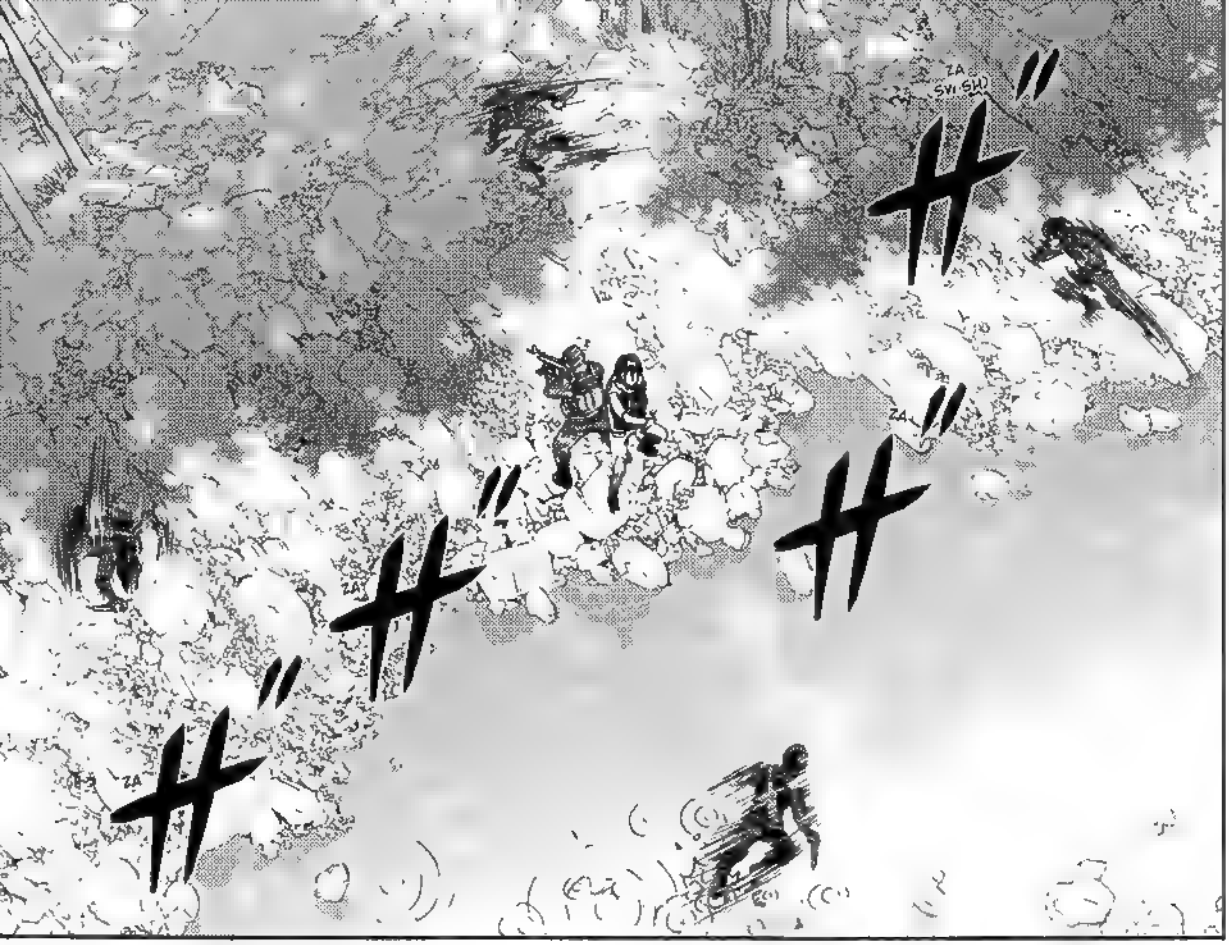
chapter 104

chapter 104



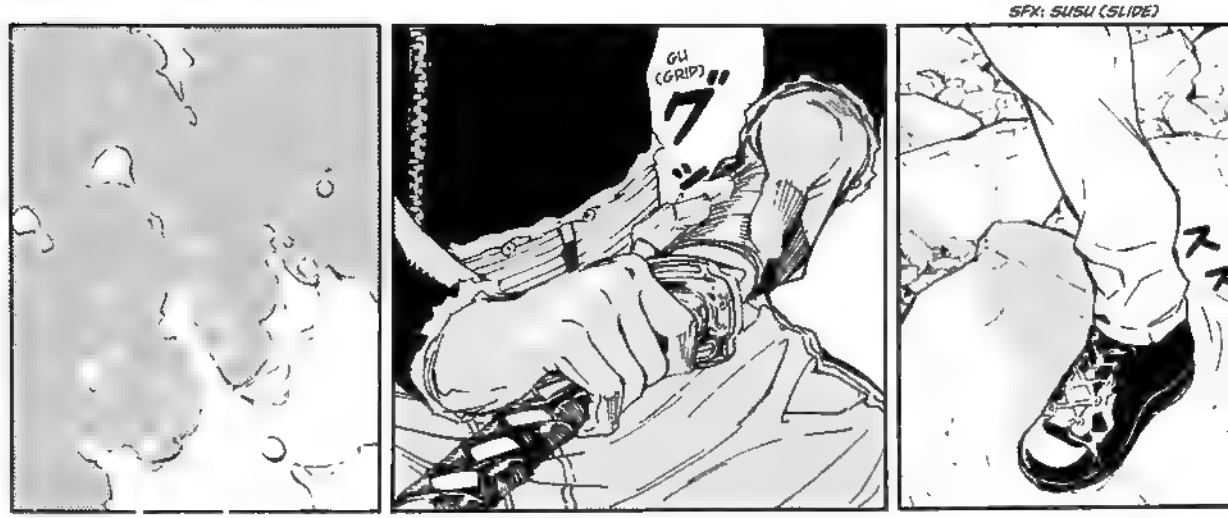

JUST FOCUS ON ANYONE IN FRONT, LEAVE THE REST TO MAMORU.


DAMN ...!
THEY SWITCHED TACTICS WHEN THEY SAW HOW WE WERE REACTING!
YURA (SWISH)
ZA (SLIDE)
SHU (SWISH)
DON'T GET FOOLED.
THE DECOYS AND ATTACKERS SWITCH SPOTS ON A DIME!


ZA
SYU SHU
ZA
ZA
ZA

—…
WHAT!?
SU (SHH)
I-IF YOU SAY SO!
DO AS I TOLD YOU!

FROM ALL DIREC-TIONS ...
...AT ONCE...

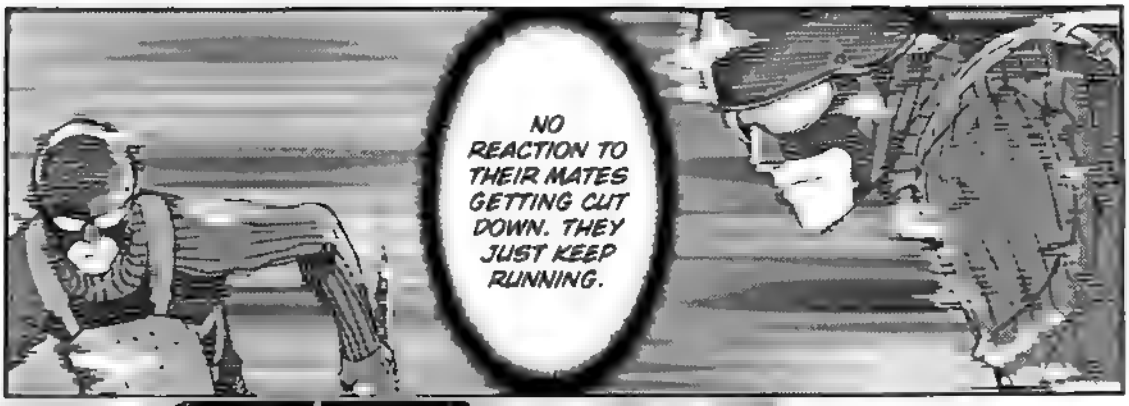

SFX: SUSU (SLIDE)
GU (GRIP)

HERE THEY COME!
SASA (ROLL)
WHOA!!
DON (SHOVE)

ВЫЖИЛИ СВОЛОЧЬ.

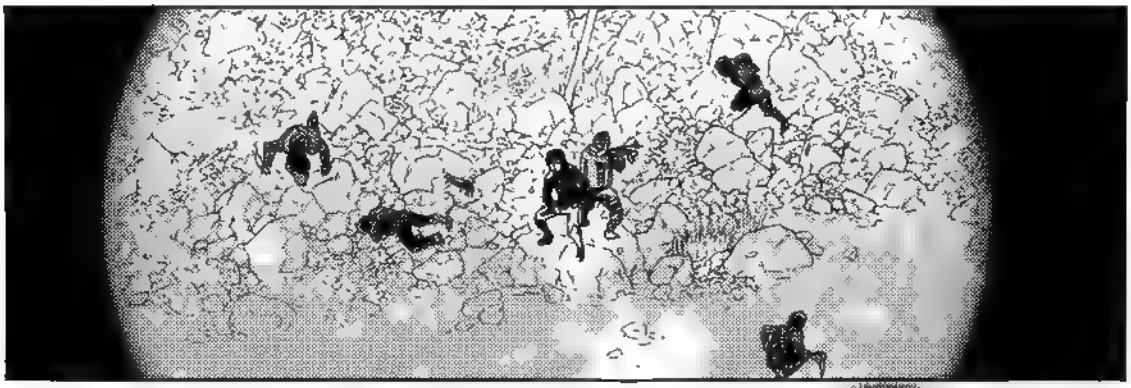
DOSA (THWUD)
DOGA (THWAK)
WH-WHAT THE —!?
ZA (ZSHH)
ZA
ZA
ZA
WE'RE NOT OUT OF IT YET!
I-I KNOW, MAN!

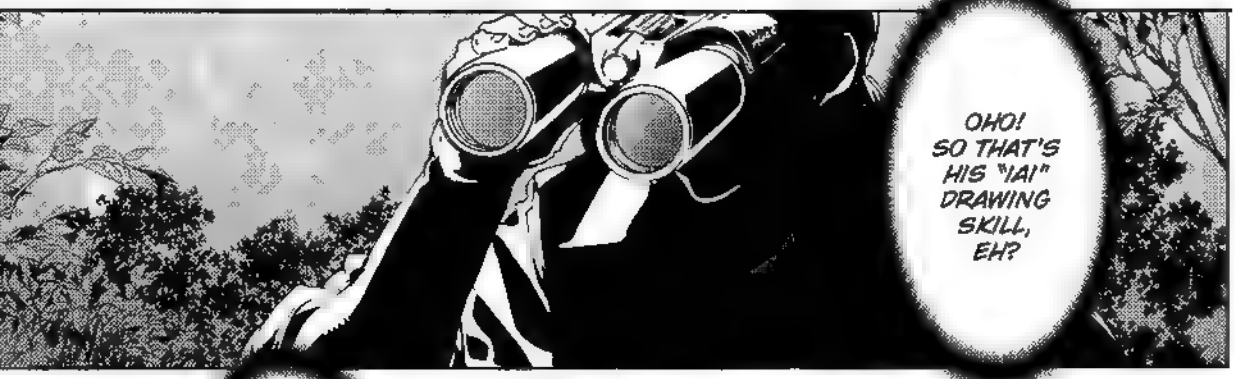
...


NO REACTION TO THEIR MATES GETTING CUT DOWN. THEY JUST KEEP RUNNING.

INSTEAD, THEY'RE PREPARED TO GO DOWN... DAMN, THESE GUYS ARE A HANDFUL...

IF THEY'D HESITATED OR BEEN STARTLED, I WOULD HAVE SLICED THE WHOLE GROUP UP.




OHO! SO THAT'S HIS "IAI" DRAWING SKILL, EH?

THAT WAY HE CAN KEEP THE ENEMY FROM LEARNING HIS TRUE REACH.

HE'S GOOD.

...
WHAT'S UP?
THEIR COVERAGE IS WEAKER TOWARD THE BACK.
I'LL MANAGE FOR MYSELF.
I CAN'T FIGHT AT FULL STRENGTH WHEN I HAVE TO FEND FOR SOMEONE ELSE TOO.
...BUT...
IN THE 50% CHANCE YOU GET AWAY, ALERT OUR PEOPLE ON THE RUN.
WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL, TAKE OFF RUNNING.
WHAT ABOUT YOU!?

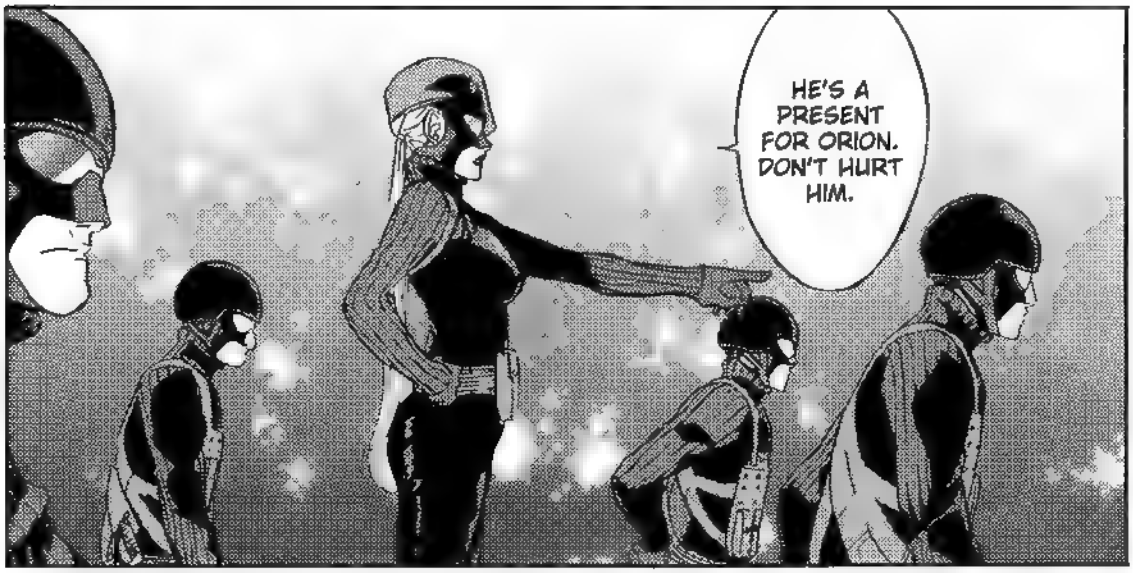
UGH!
YOU WANT TO SEE EVERYONE WIPED OUT?
GUI (TUG)
(WHOOSH)
DA (DASH)

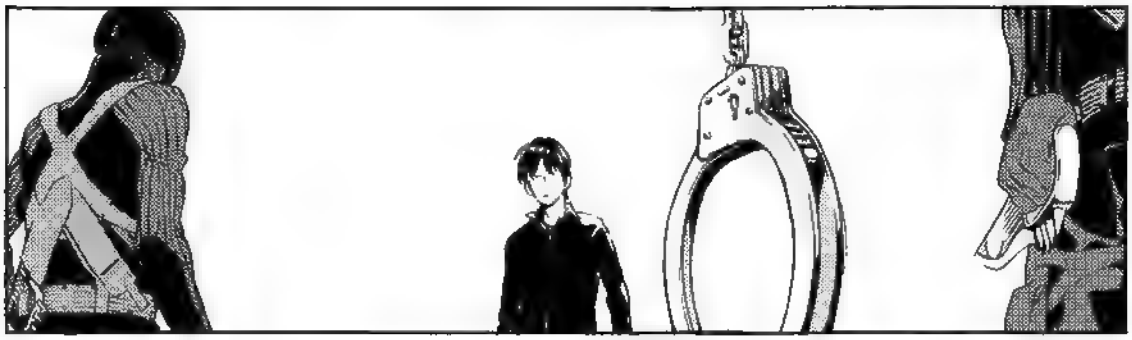
ZA (SPIN)
GO !!
BUN (SHOVE)
DA! (DASH)
DA
...
...JUST FOCUS ON SAVING YOUR OWN SKIN...
YOU'D BETTER MAKE IT BACK IN ONE PIECE!

ZA
(ZSHH)
ZA
ハア
HAA
HAA
ハア
HAA
ハア
HAA
(HUFF)
HAA
ハア

SHIT...TOOK TOO LONG. NOW THEIR BACKUP IS HERE.
ZA (ZSHH) ZA
SUU
SUU (SHH)
!?
I WATCHED YOUR WHOLE FIGHT.
VERY FASCINATING, INDEED.

パチン
PACHIN
(SNAP)
SU
ORION HAS NO USE FOR A HUNTING DOG THAT CANNOT RUN.
SUPA
(SLIKK)
WHA—!


HE'S A PRESENT FOR ORION. DON'T HURT HIM.



DON'T GET SO UPSET, VOLUNTEER.
HAH! YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME UNHARMED?
YOU REALLY DON'T THINK MUCH OF MY SKILL, DO YOU?

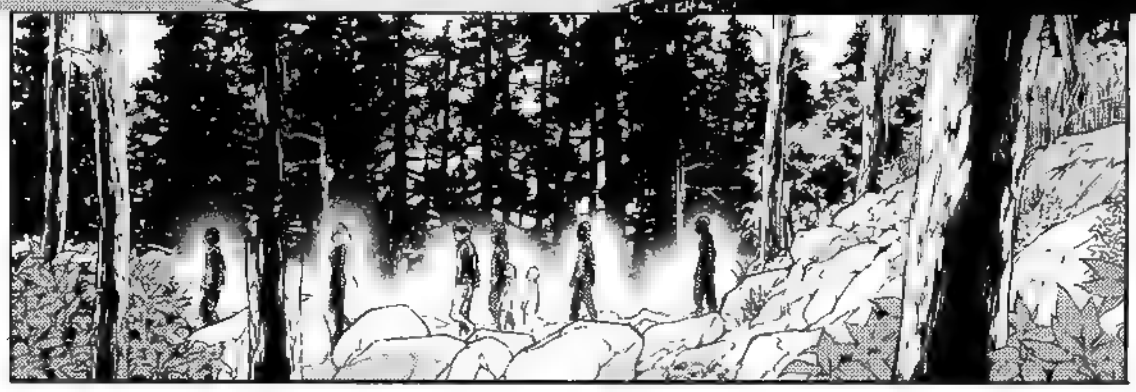
!?
THIS EXCUSE WON'T SHAME YOUR PRIDE, WILL IT?

ZA (ZSHH)
.....YOU THINK THAT'S ENOUGH TO STOP ME!?
GU (HRRG)
ABSOLUTELY. YOU'RE ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.

... FUCKING SCUMBAGS .....
DOGA (THWAK)
ZASU (STAB)

WHAT'S YOUR NAME...?
SECOND-IN-COMMAND OF THE CANES VENATICI.
I GO BY LUNA.

chapter 105

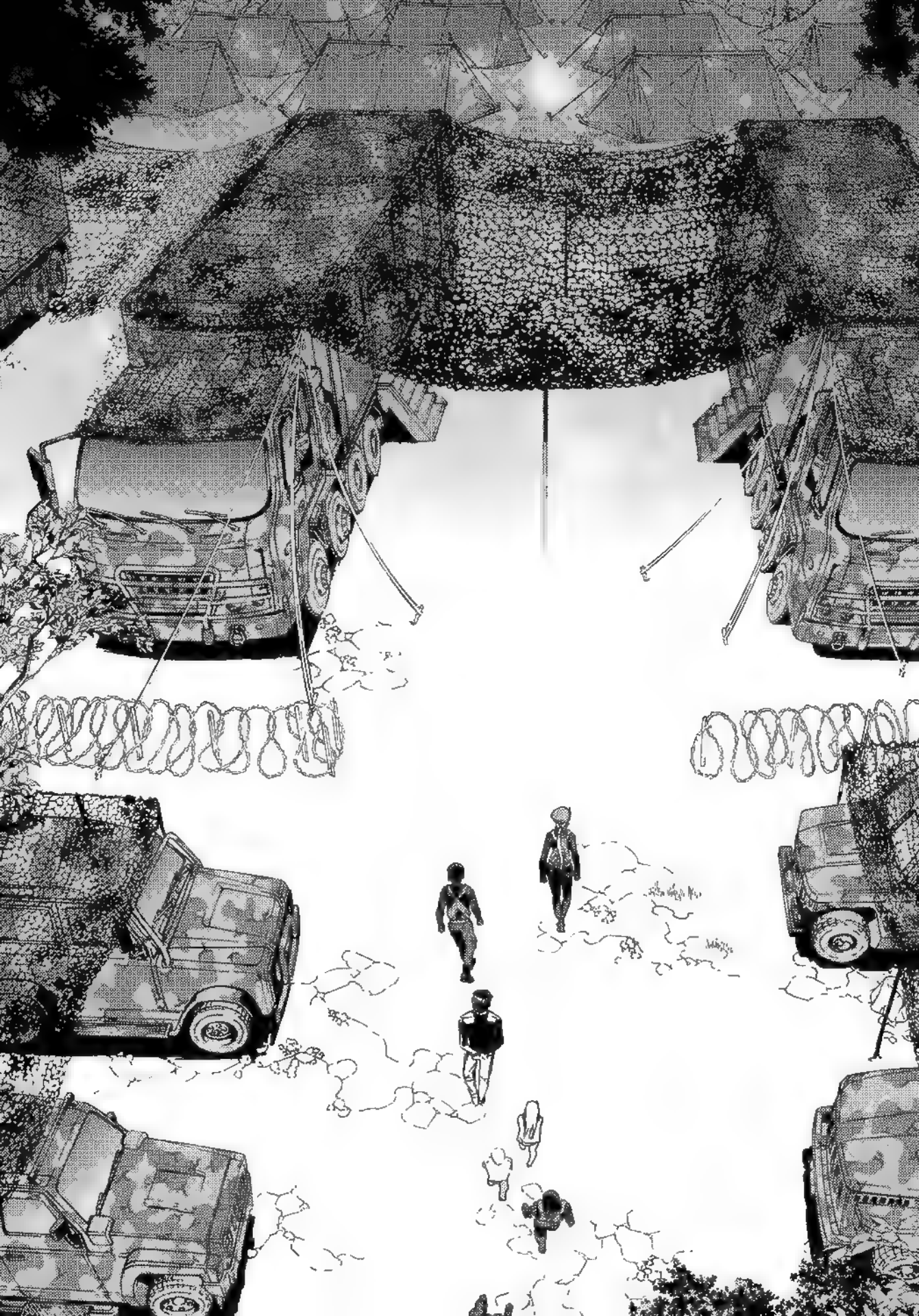


...

NO STOPPING.

ZA (MARCH)
ZA

I'LL BE DAMNED ...



THEY'RE HARD-CORE FORTIFIED HERE...
THEY'VE GOT WAY MORE INVESTED IN THIS THAN THE ELEMENT NETWORK.
GUI (SHOVE)
DON (KICK)
~~!
...!
...!
...!

YOU FOLLOWED US, ORION?
OF COURSE I DID.
ZA
ZA
ZA

INVITE HIM TO TONIGHT'S DINNER.
YOU WILL ATTEND AS WELL.
NO POINT LETTING SUCH AN ENTERTAINING TARGET GET LOOSE.
YES, SIR.
...

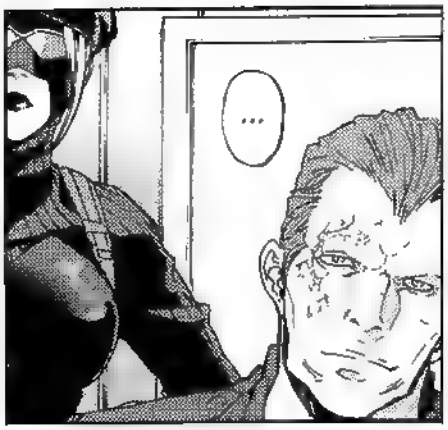
AWFUL GENEROUS OF YOU...
FOOD IS THE SOURCE OF ALL VITALITY, SAMURAI.

WE SELL TO THE RICHEST ELITE OF EVERY COUNTRY.
THE WEALTHY SPARE NO EXPENSE ON THEIR CHILDREN.
SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE WELL FUNDED. YOU GET THAT MUCH MONEY FOR CHILD ORGANS?
CHILDREN ARE A VALUABLE RESOURCE.
AS FOR THE NON-ORGAN PARTS, THERE ARE RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS WHO PAY WELL FOR THOSE.
AND THEY'RE EVERYWHERE IN THE POOREST REGIONS OF THE WORLD.

A HELPLESS UNLIMITED MONEY TREE, RIPE FOR THE PICKING.
...
HUH
MY PERSONAL CHEF DOES GOOD WORK.
EAT SAMURAI

DON'T KNOW THE NEXT TIME I'LL ACTUALLY GET A MEAL.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME.

I DIDN'T SAY A THING.
TABLE MANNERS? WHAT ARE THOSE?
I'M JUST A YELLOW MONKEY FROM THE ORIENT!


...

YOU'VE GOT EYES LIKE GLASS MARBLES. YOU LOOK AT PEOPLE AS IF THEY AREN'T EVEN HUMAN.

YOUR EYES DID.

I DON'T NEED ANY SOUVENIRS TO TAKE HOME.
I'M DONE EATING. GET ME A CAR.
YOU'RE A FUNNY MAN, SAMURAI.
I'VE NEVER MET A MAN WHO TALKED TO ME LIKE THAT IN YOUR SITUATION.
DON'T THROW YOUR WEIGHT AROUND WITH ME. YOU MIGHT HAVE MADE A NAME FOR YOURSELF, BUT YOU'RE STILL JUST A REGIONAL MANAGER FOR THE TPC.
DO YOU ACT LIKE SUCH A BIG SHOT WHEN YOU DEAL WITH THE REAL PUPPET MASTERS PULLING THE STRINGS BEHIND YOU?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR ORGANIZATION THINKS IT'S DOING HERE ...
...BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE IT'S LARGE ENOUGH TO STOP WHAT WE'RE DOING.
TON
TON
TAP
NICE TRY, BUT YOU CAN'T GET TO ME THAT WAY.
LOOKS LIKE I WAS RIGHT...
THE TRANSPLANT CONNECTION'S GOT A LOT MORE MUSCLE LURKING BENEATH THE SURFACE.
HE'S JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG ...

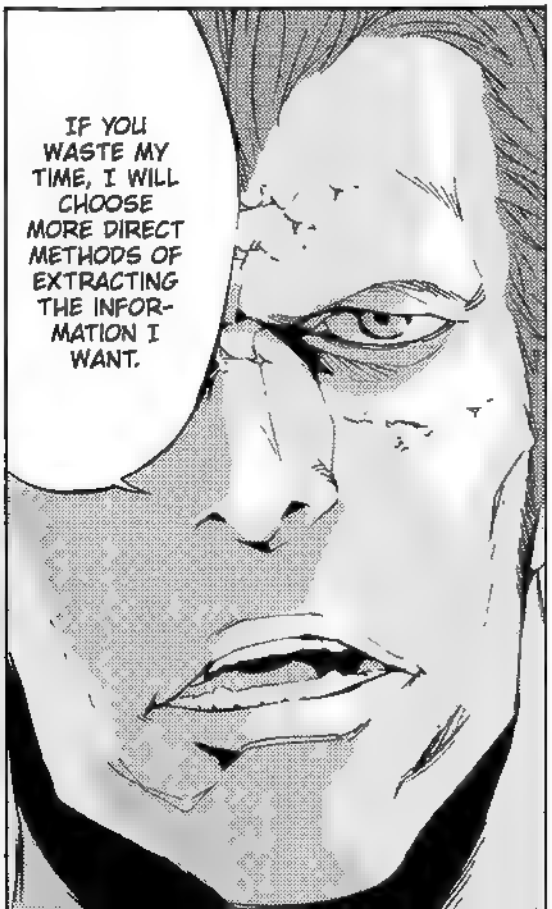
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN. I WANT TO KNOW YOUR BACK-GROUND.
WHY ARE YOU HERE, AND WHO ARE YOU WITH?

I VALUE MY TIME. YOU MIGHT RECOGNIZE THAT I'M GIVING YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO TELL ME.
コト
KOTO (TUNE)

...YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME...

MY ORGANIZATION ENGAGES IN VOLUNTEER JUSTICE WORK...

...


IF YOU WASTE MY TIME, I WILL CHOOSE MORE DIRECT METHODS OF EXTRACTING THE INFOR-MATION I WANT.

!?
...AND IF THAT IS TRULY THE CASE...
...THEN YOUR VOLUNTEER CHARITY ORGANIZATION PUT TOGETHER A MILITARY FORCE AND SENT IT TO CHECHNYA TO CURTAIL OUR ABDUCTIONS.
DO I HAVE THAT CORRECT?
YEAH, SUPERFICIALLY, I'D SAY YOU'VE GOT THE IDEA.
AND WHO THE FUCK IS GOING TO TRUST A LOAD OF BULLSHIT LIKE THAT!?
DON (WHAM)
EXACTLY.
EVEN I DON'T TRUST THEIR AIMS ENTIRELY, AND I'M WORKING FOR THEM.
BUT AS LONG AS SOME PEOPLE PROVIDE FUNDS AND OTHERS DO THE WORK, THAT PRETTY MUCH QUALIFIES IT AS A VALID, ACTIVE ORGANIZATION, DOESN'T IT?

...
AND THE FACT THAT WE DON'T ALLOW ANY FACET OF OUR EXISTENCE TO BE BROUGHT TO LIGHT MAKES US NO DIFFERENT FROM YOU.
...
NONE OF THIS MATTERS TO ME. THEY GAVE ME A "BATTLEFIELD" AND A "REASON TO FIGHT." THAT'S ALL I NEED.
GET HIM OUTTA MY SIGHT...
...!

Y-YES, SIR!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? TAKE HIM BACK TO HIS CELL!!
ガシャン

I'M NOT LYING.
IT'S JUST NOT THE KIND OF THING THAT PEOPLE LIKE HIM WOULD EVER BELIEVE.
WHAT YOU SAID BACK THERE...
IS IT TRUE?
MAYBE A BIT.
AND NOT BECAUSE YOU SAID IT IN A WAY GUARANTEED TO PISS HIM OFF?
...WE'RE THE LEFTOVERS ...
HM !?

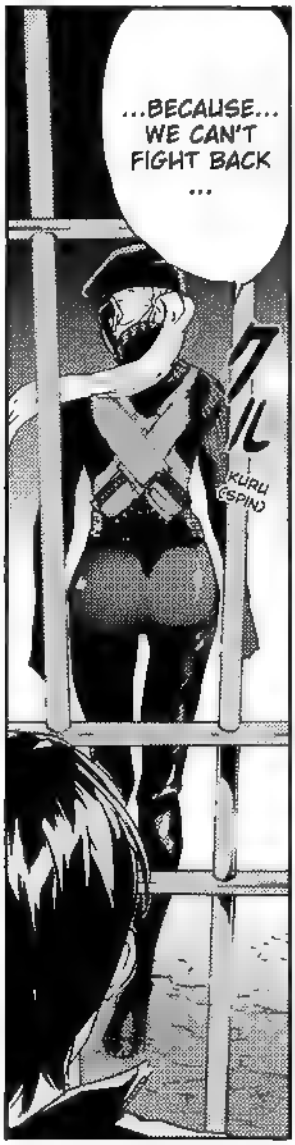
WE'RE THE CHILDREN WHO NEVER FOUND CLIENTS TO BUY OUR ORGANS.
THAT'S WHAT THE CANES VENATICI ARE.
.....WHAT THE HELL ...!?

Until
Death
do us
Part

chapter 106

JUST WHAT I SAID.
...WHAT... DOES THAT MEAN ...?
!
WE WERE ABDUCTED YEARS AGO IN ORDER TO HAVE OUR ORGANS HARVESTED.

PLENTY OF US ARE STILL MISSING AN ORGAN OR TWO.
THEY REMOVED HALF OF MY LIVER, FOR EXAMPLE.


...BECAUSE... WE CAN'T FIGHT BACK ...
KURU (SPIN)

WHY ARE YOU CREATING OTHER CHILDREN JUST LIKE YOU!?

...

I SEE... SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE ALL SO YOUNG AND DIVERSE.
SO WHY DO YOU HELP HIM?

!?
IS THAT ALL!?
TELLING ME ABOUT THE PAST WON'T CHANGE A THING.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ABOUT THIS!?
MY SISTER WAS CAUGHT YESTERDAY.
IF I SHOW YOU WHERE TO GO, CAN YOU TAKE HER WITH YOU WHEN YOU ESCAPE? I BELIEVE YOU'RE CAPABLE OF THAT.

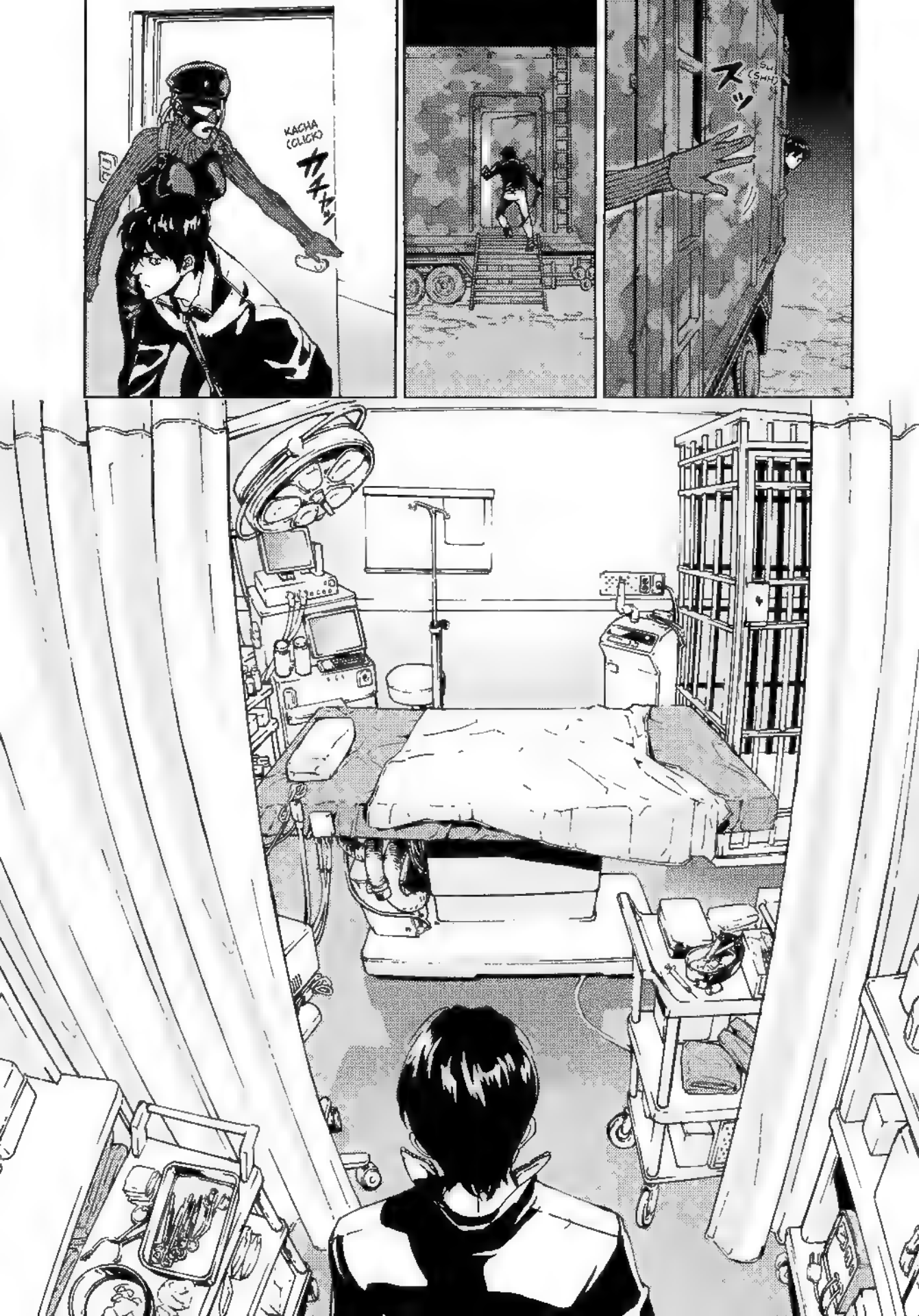
I'LL HIDE YOUR SWORD AND EQUIPMENT BEHIND THE REAR BUMPER OF THE TRAILER.
THERE WILL BE A DISTURBANCE FOR YOU TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TONIGHT.
JARA (CLINK.
PLUS...
...IMMORTAL?
...WATCH OUT FOR A CERTAIN NUMBER OF THE SOLDIERS. THEY'RE IMMORTAL.

SA-18: A PORTABLE ANTI-AIR MISSILE LAUNCHER.

...SHE ARRANGED FOR SOME-THING TO HAPPEN...
ゴォォ
THE RUSSIAN AIR FORCE!?
A FIGHTER JET!?

オ
オ
オ

カチャ


KACHA (CLICK)
カチャ
スッ
(SHH)

TCH...
WE WERE PLANNING TO WIPE OUT YOUR SQUAD BEFORE WE STARTED HUNTING IN EARNEST.
HOW MANY KIDS!?
ONLY THE TWO I USED AS HOSTAGES FOR NOW.

<SAMUR—>
<AH—>
HOW'D YOU USE THE MILITARY LIKE THAT? YOU LEAK INTEL?
IF WE HAVE A CHANCE, IT'S RIGHT NOW. TAKE THEM AND GO.
GU (TUG)
EVEN ORION ISN'T GOING TO RAISE TROUBLE WITH THE RUSSIANS DIRECTLY.
FIRST THEY'LL FLY RECON, THEN THEY'LL SEND A SCOUT TROOP ON LAND.

HUH !?
YOU'RE COMING TOO.
...
PLUS, I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU'LL BE VERY WELL OFF HERE AFTER WE'RE GONE.
I'LL STAY IN THE REAR AND ACT AS DECOY.
I NEED SOMEONE TO LEAD THE WAY, ANYWAY.
—...
KEEP THEM QUIET.
...
KOKU (NOD)

!?
DOSA (THUD)

チャッ
!?
?
WE'RE BETTER OFF BEING KILLED...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
YOU DON'T NEED TO KILL HIM. HE WON'T BE ABLE TO SHOOT A GUN FOR QUITE A WHILE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT !?

...WHAT ...?
WE'RE DISPOSABLE PRODUCTS, KEPT ALIVE WITH PHARMACEUTICALS.
IF WE'RE INJURED AND AREN'T BATTLE READY IN SHORT ORDER, WE'RE SLAUGHTERED ON THE SPOT.
...WE'RE GIVEN A SPECIAL COCKTAIL OF DRUGS CALLED "FETTERS."
IN ORDER TO DULL OUR PAIN AND PREVENT BETRAYAL ...
ONLY ORION HAS THE CONNECTION FOR IT.
IF WE DON'T RECEIVE AN INJECTION OF IT ONCE A DAY, WE'RE HIT BY WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS 300 TIMES AS SEVERE AS MORPHINE'S.
..

IT'S LOW IN TOXICITY, BUT IT TORMENTS ITS VICTIMS FOR A VERY LONG TIME.
IT'S... A LIVING HELL.
I'D RATHER SELL MY SOUL TO THE DEVIL ...
...THAN TASTE THAT HELL AGAIN.
HENCE THE "FETTERS" ...
IT'S SICKENING.
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING. THOSE WHOSE RELIGION FORBIDS SUICIDE WILL NEED THE HELP OF OTHERS WHEN IT COMES TIME TO DIE!

DON'T KEEP ME FROM UPHOLDING MY WORD!
STAY BACK, KIDS...
I'M COMING TO YOU ...

THEN AGAIN... AT LEAST THEY'RE NOT MORE KILLS THAN THE REST OF US.

ADD NEIL, KEVIN, AND ISAAC TO THE PURSUIT.

GOOD IDEA.
IF WE DON'T USE THEM ON HIM, THE SQUAD COULD SUFFER DAMAGES.

I TOOK THAT SAMURAI ALIVE IN THE FIRST PLACE BECAUSE I WANTED THOSE THREE TO FIGHT HIM.
IF HE BEATS THEM, I'LL GIVE HIM FETTERS AND USE HIM AS MY BODY-GUARD.

I KNOW REMEMBER, THEY'RE CARRYING CHILDREN
IF I JOIN THE CHASE WE'LL TRACK THEM DOWN IN NO TIME
BUT IF WE DON'T SET THEM FOR LOW OUTPUT THE RUSSIANS MIGHT PICK UP OUR LOCATION
I'LL PUT TRACKERS ON THEM, JUST IN CASE
THAT'S WHEN THE SHOW REALLY BEGINS.

ВЗЯТЬ
ВЗЯТЬ
ВЗЯТЬ

Until
Death
do us
Part

ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA

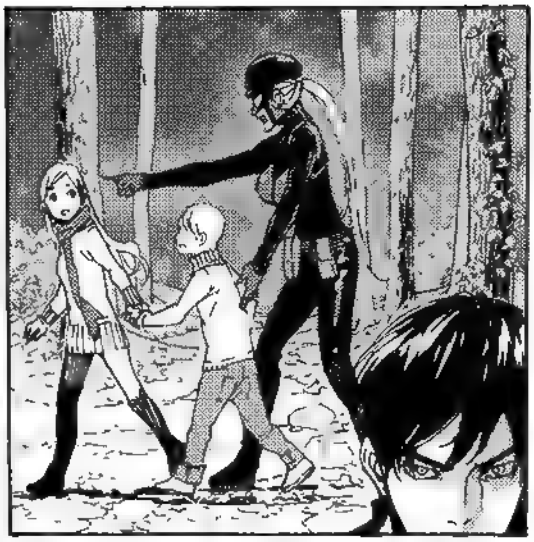
DOTA
(SLUMP)
<AH!!>

WE'RE MAKING POOR TIME...
WHAT'S GOING ON!?

chapter 107

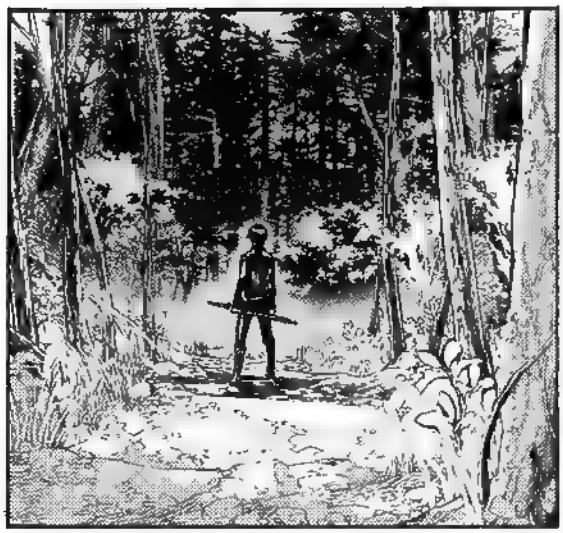
SU SUH)

PURSUERS? THEY FOUND US TOO QUICKLY...
THAT MUST MEAN THEY'RE AFTER US...



...

DA (DASH)
NO STOPPING! DO YOU WANT TO DIE!?



THERE ARE THREE OF THEM TOTAL, THE CANES VENATICI'S BEST "BOOSTED SOLDIERS."
THEY'RE TEST SUBJECTS FOR A NEW DRUG MIX WITH UNPREDICTABLE RESULTS, SO THEY AREN'T GIVEN GUNS. BUT BE CAREFUL.

RRH/
RRH...
スルル
SURURU (SLIDE)

...HE'S FAST!
GA (WHAKK)
HIS ATTACK IS UTTER CHAOS!
BUT...
GU (URRGG)
GU
GU

ZUZA (SLIDE)
ZA
ZA
ZA

GAKI (KCHING)

IS HE JUST OVER-POWERING ME!?
ヒュッ
(SWISH)
ブン
(WHOOSH)

ガ
キン
WHAT... THE FUCK!?
HUH!?
フウ
フウ
バ

UMM ...
THIS IS AS MUCH AS I CAN DO FOR YOU.
JUST KEEP RUNNING AHEAD!
SAY HELLO TO MOTHER FOR ME.
HUH !?

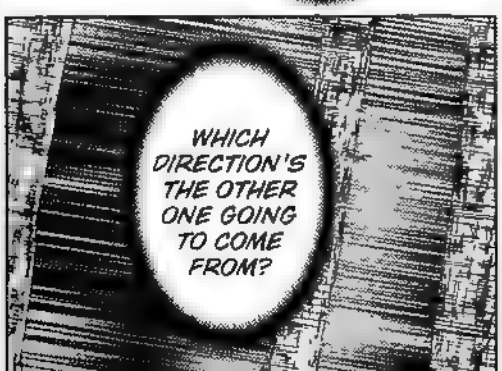
DADA (DASH)

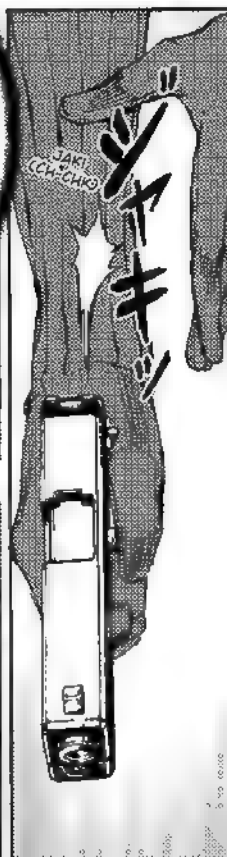
DON (SHOVE)
HURRY!

KURU (SPIN)

EITHER WAY, YOU WON'T GET PAST ME!
CHA (CHIK)

DA
DA
DAMN! ONE OF THEM NOTICED US.
HE MUST HAVE TRACKED US DOWN ON A DIFFERENT ROUTE.


WHICH DIRECTION'S THE OTHER ONE GOING TO COME FROM?


JAKI (CH-CHK)

DON
(BLAM)
DON
DON
GUOOO
(WHOOSH)
CAN YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND YOUR COMRADE'S WORDS ANYMORE, NEIL!?
SASA
(SWISH)

BAKI (CRACK)
BAKI
HOW TOUGH IS THIS GUY? I KEEP SMACK-ING HIM DOWN...
...BUT HIS REACTIONS ARE SO QUICK, HE ALWAYS DODGES THE FATAL BLOWS AT THE LAST INSTANT.
EVERYTHING ELSE, HE JUST TAKES THEM WITH-OUT SO MUCH AS A BLINK.
AND HIS SKULL— PERHAPS OTHER PARTS TOO...
...IS REINFORCED WITH SOME KIND OF HARD MATERIAL.
FLICK (FLIP)
FLICK
DOESN'T FEEL LIKE METAL, THOUGH... CERAMIC?
KIN (CKTING)
KIN

WHAT SHOULD I DO!? HE'S A VICTIM, JUST LIKE THE OTHERS!
NO PAIN AND EXTREME STRENGTH AND STAMINA MEANS IT HAS TO BE LYCAN
THEN AGAIN IF I REALLY WANTED TO KILL HIM, EVEN A MONSTER CAN BE DISPATCHED A NUMBER OF WAYS.
!?

THAT'S IT... I'M GONNA MOP THE FLOOR WITH YOU...
...
CAN'T LET YOU POOR SAPS BE BURDENED WITH MORE CRIMES THAN YOU'VE ALREADY DONE.

ギュ
GYUU
(SQUEEZE)
ウヴッ
STRIKE TRUE, DOTANUKI ...
ナ゛
ナ゛
ッ

GOKI (GRUNCH)

SHIN

GOKI
(CRUNCH)

DOSA
(THUD)

YOU RELY ON ARMOR TOO MUCH.

ズキ
ZUKI (THROB)
RGH!

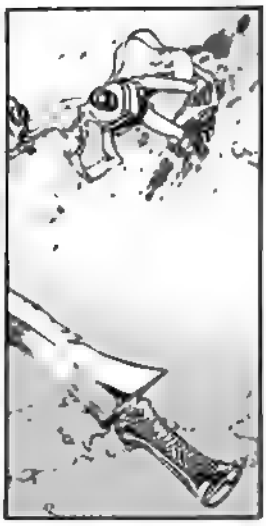
DA (DSH)

THE BLADE'S STILL FIRM, THOUGH.

TSK... SHOULD HAVE FIGURED A SKULL-CRUSHING BLOW AGAINST THE LATEST, TOUGHEST MATERIAL ...
...WAS GOING TO RUIN THE EDGE...

I CAN STILL FIGHT!

ハア
HAA (SIGH)
ハア
HAA



ザッ

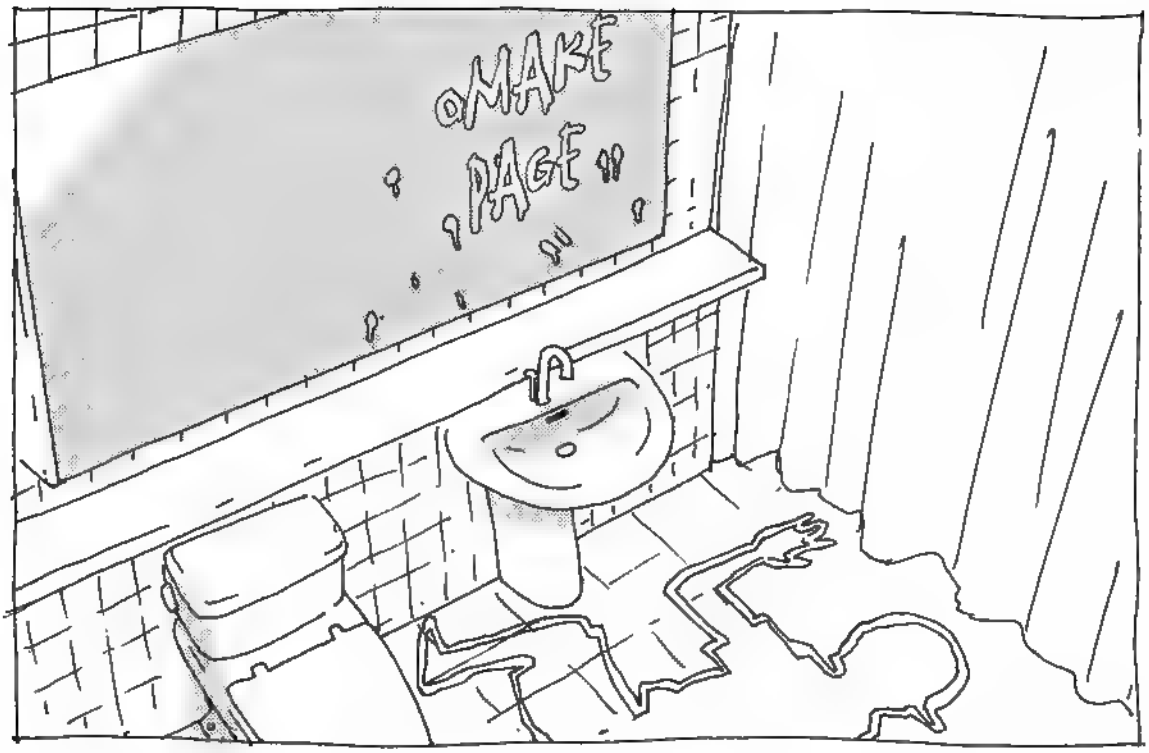
YOU'RE OKAY...
YORO (WOBBLE)
DON'T PUSH IT.
I MUST THANK YOU.
HAA (HUFF)
HAA
YOU WEREN'T KIDDING.
.....YOU ARE SISTERS...

IT HURTS SO MUCH, I COULD CLAW MY OWN FACE OFF.
KILL ME WHILE I'M STILL HUMAN.
ALL RIGHT...
パシュッ
PASHU (PSHT)
DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT. MY DOSE RAN OUT, AND IT'S KILLING ME.
FINISH ME QUICK, SO I DON'T HAVE TO SUFFER.

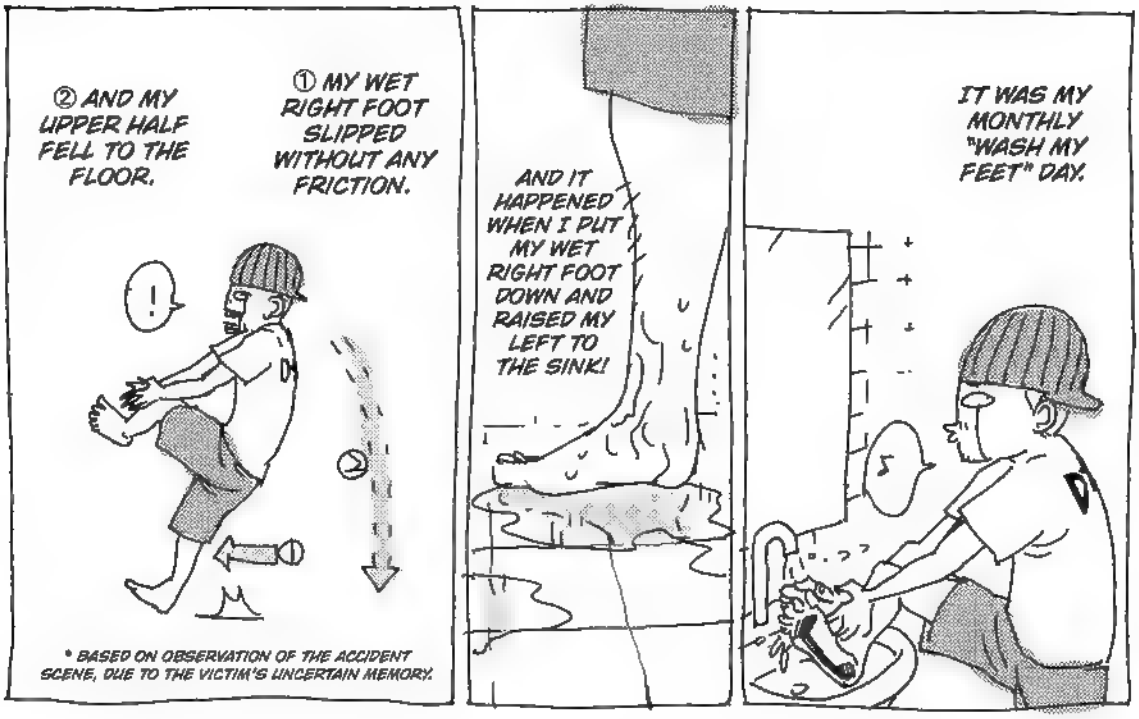
ゴゴゴ

AAAAH!!

Until
Death
do us
Part



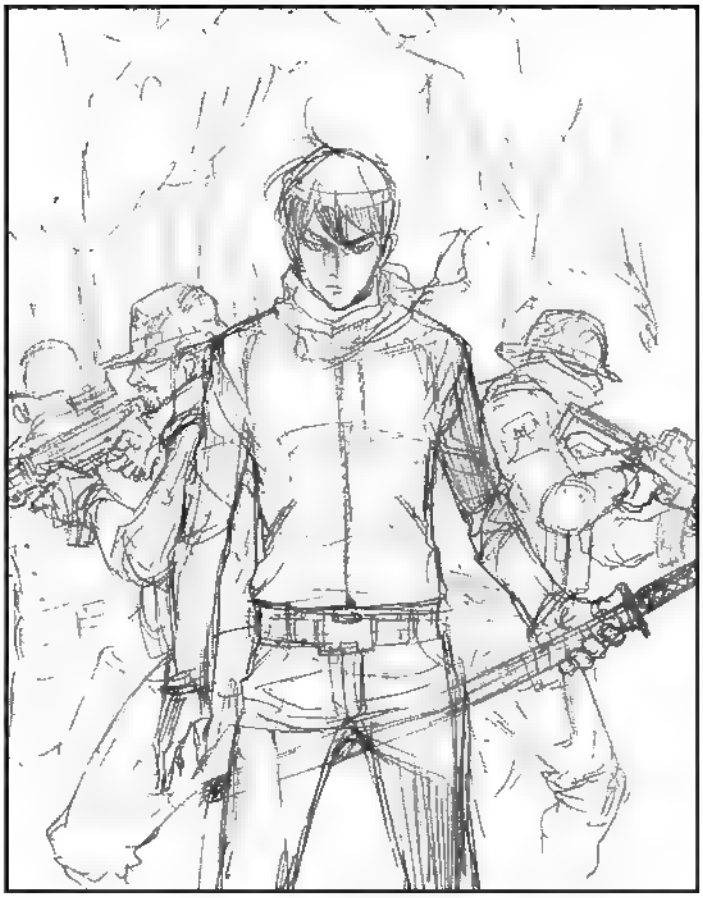
I HAD AN ACCIDENT.


② AND MY UPPER HALF FELL TO THE FLOOR.
① MY WET RIGHT FOOT SLIPPED WITHOUT ANY FRICTION.
!
②
① AND IT HAPPENED WHEN I PUT MY WET RIGHT FOOT DOWN AND RAISED MY LEFT TO THE SINK!
IT WAS MY MONTHLY "WASH MY FEET" DAY.
♪
* BASED ON OBSERVATION OF THE ACCIDENT SCENE, DUE TO THE VICTIM'S UNCERTAIN MEMORY.

I SAW THE NORTHERN LIGHTS!
...THE ONLY ONES IN THE ROOM WERE TWO CATS.
Meow?
I DESPERATELY SOUGHT HELP, BUT...
S-SOMEONE... AMBULANCE...!
SO MUCH PAIN, CAN'T EVEN SCREAM.
YOU KNOW HOW PEOPLE DRAW THESE BUMPS IN COMIC BOOKS? WELL, IT REALLY HAPPENS!
LIAR!
ISN'T THE HUMAN BODY AMAZING? I FEEL LIKE I CREATED SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING.
I PASSED OUT IN THEIR PRESENCE, SO THIS IS MY BEST GUESS AS TO WHAT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED.
CPR meow!
You're kitten me! You can't go into the light!
Remem-purr your parents' faces!
It's a catastro-phe!

I HAVE A BUMP THE SIZE OF A SMALL WATER-MELON...AM I GOING TO DIE?
What-ever...
MY ENTIRE LIFE HAS BEEN PASSING BEFORE MY EYES...
I SWEAR, I WAS IN FREEFALL AT 80 MPH!
HUH?
I KNOW BECAUSE GAS AND ENGINE OIL RUN IN MY VEINS!
I COULD FEEL SOMEONE PULLING ME DOWN FROM BEHIND, BUT THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE IN THE ROOM...
WHAT!?
I TOLD MY FRIENDS MY DREADFUL TALE OF WOE.
THAT CAN BE EXPEN-SIVE TO REPLACE.
IS THE BATHROOM FLOOR INTACT?
...
...
WOW... NO KIDDING.
I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE CONCERN AND SUPPORT.
REALLY? THAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
Q: I slipped in front of the sink and went into an 80-mph freefall! Now I have a bump the size of a watermelon on my head. Do I need to worry about brain hemorrhages? Do you think I'll die?
I TYPED MY SYMPTOMS INTO AN INTERNET MESSAGE BOARD...
A: If you can go on the Internet, you're probably fine.

I WOKE UP FINE IN THE MORNING AND WENT TO THE HOSPITAL.
If it's a real hemorrhage, you could die in your sleep!
OH ...
UH...BUT IT'S TWO IN THE MORNING ...
What!? No way! Get yourself to a hospital!
ONLY TWO PEOPLE I KNEW WERE SEVERELY CONCERNED. ONE WAS MR. L, MY MILITARY ADVISOR.
DIED THREE DAYS LATER.
HE WAS TOTALLY FINE AND HEALTHY, JUST LIKE YOU ARE NOW.
IT WAS A THRILLING THREE DAYS.
THE OTHER WAS MY FRIEND, Y-KUN.
?
DUDE, I SAW A GUY WITH BLEEDING IN THE BRAIN ON THAT SHOW "CSI" ONCE...
HOW Y'ALL DOIN' OUT THERE?
I'M GREAT! PERFECT, EVEN! SORRY ABOUT THAT!!
I'LL TRY TO BE ALIVE FOR THE NEXT VOLUME!
WATCH OUT FOR HOUSEHOLD ACCIDENTS, FOLKS!
WELL, I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON. NO MORE WASHING MY FEET BY STICKING THEM UP INTO THE SINK!



Art Staff
Suri ♀: Chief Assistant
0-Second ♂: Background Art
Taurus ♀: Background Art

Military Advisor
Lee Hyun Seok (warmania)

SPECIAL THANKS
Shingo Takano

Crossover Planning
JESUS—Sajin Kouro, Yami no Aegis, Akatsuki no Aegis
Written by Kyouichi Nanatsuki,
Art by Yoshihide Fujiwara
(Shogakukan)

Design Assistance
Hitoshi Fukuchi

Until
Death
do us
Part

YOU STILL ALIVE!? WHERE ARE YOU!?
WAS IT THE SHRAPNEL? CAN'T HEAR EITHER...
CAN'T OPEN MY EYES
!?

chapter 108

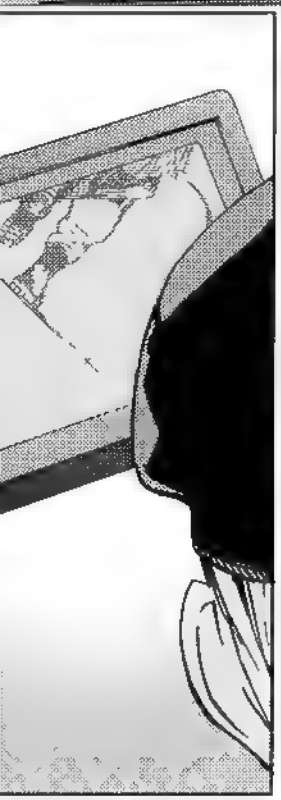
FF
FET
TERS

HANG ON...
I'LL SOOTHE THAT ITCH FOREVER...
SHE'S LOST AN ARM AND BEEN BLOWN TO SHREDS, AND SHE STILL WANTS THE DAMN DRUG?
HYUN (1WD)

ドドド

WHERE'S ISAAC?
I'M AMAZED...HE KNOCKED OUT TWO OF OUR EXPERIMENTAL SOLDIERS...
ガリッ
(GARI SCRAPE)
WHY ISN'T THE PICTURE MOVING?
MM?
WHAT'S THIS!?
HE'S STOPPED ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS TO THE SOUTHEAST.
DID YOU FIND THE BRATS?
HANG ON, I'LL CHECK THE RECORD-ING.

Well, either way, the Grim Reaper's comin' for you now.
You watching, Orion?
!?



But before that...
...I'm going to destroy your mobile base to put your troops out of commission. We'll see how well you can recover from that.

WHO'S THAT!?
I DON'T KNOW.

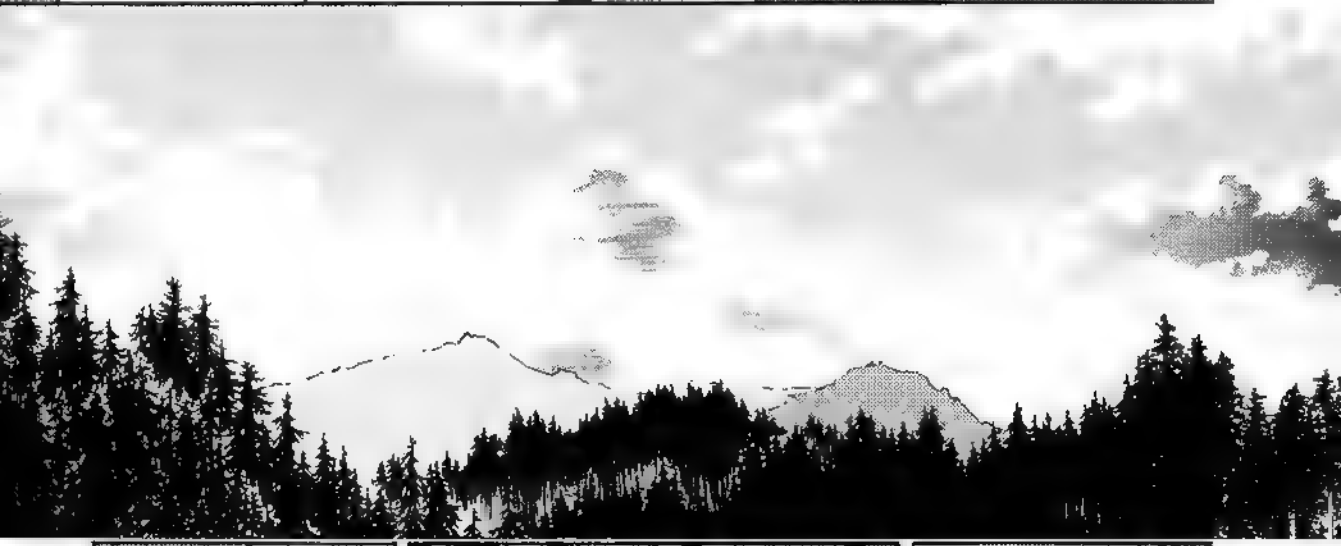
B-BUT, SIR—

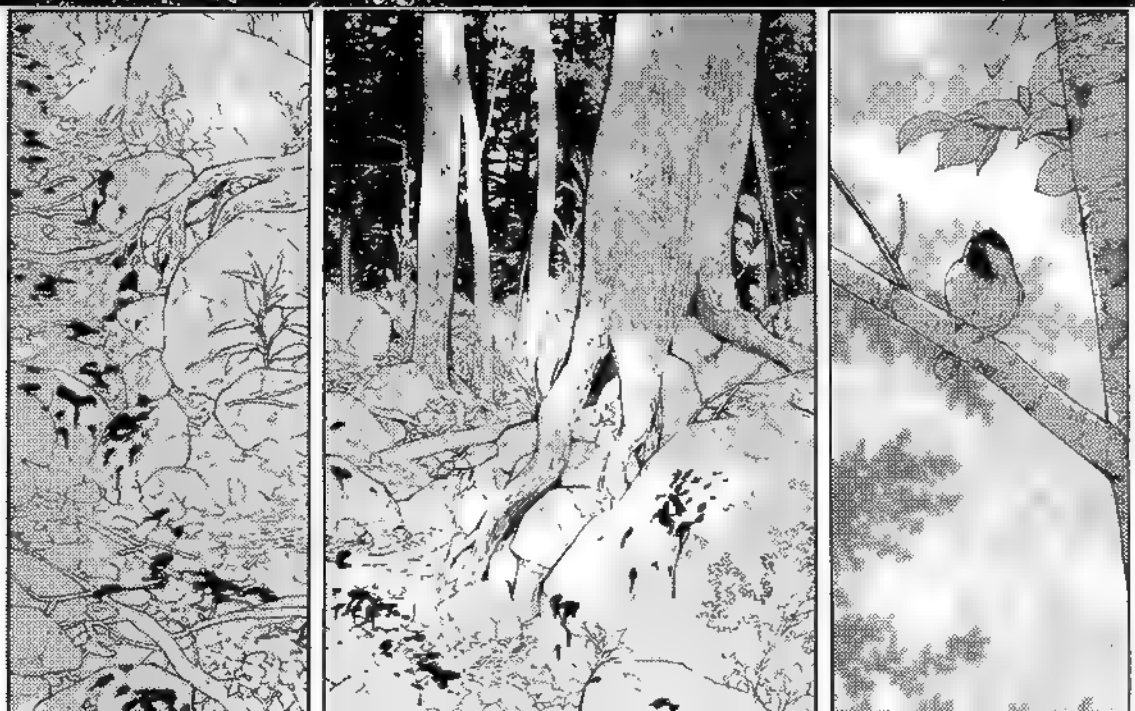
...I'LL KEEP FIVE MEN WITH ME. EVERYONE ELSE, BACK TO BASE.

DA (DASH)

JUST REMEMBER THAT OUR HEADQUARTERS WILL BE BUSY TRYING TO EVADE THE RUSSIANS.
HOW MUCH DAMAGE CAN ONE WOUNDED MAN WITH A SWORD DO!?
STOP TRYING TO RUIN MY ENTERTAINMENT!

GET BACK THERE AND DEAL WITH WHOEVER TOOK OUT ISAAC!!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH TIME AND MONEY IT TOOK TO ARRANGE THAT BASE!?





HUFF!
HUFF!
CAN'T SEE, EARS STILL RINGING, AND I PULLED HALF THE MUSCLES IN MY UPPER BODY WITH THAT HELMET-CRUSHER.
THINGS ARE GETTING WORSE AND WORSE FOR ME.
IS IT... MORNING ?

JUST ONE GOOD SLASH...
IF I CAN JUST MANAGE TO PULL OFF A SINGLE ONE OF MY MOVES...
NOW I STICK OUT IN THE LIGHT LIKE A SORE THUMB.
I'VE GOT YOU IN MY SIGHTS.
HEY, SAMURAI!
TSK!

THAT'S A FATAL BLOW FOR A BODY-GUARD.
DAMAGE YOUR EYESIGHT?
WHY'S HE CALLING OUT INSTEAD OF JUST SHOOTING ME?
WHAT'S HE THINKING?
I'LL GIVE YOU A NICE THICK TASTE OF MY DOTANUKI.
COME OUT! COME CLOSER!
I'LL BE THE HUNTER, YOU BE THE PREY.
LET'S PLAY A GAME BEFORE WE SAY GOOD-BYE.

I'VE GOT TWO KNIVES.

IF YOU MANAGE TO EVADE ME, YOU MAY RETURN TO WHATEVER HOLE YOU CRAWLED OUT OF.

BUT NO CREATURE HAS YET EVADED MY GRASP!!

SUN (WHOOSH)
HRGH!
HEH-HEH...
SEEMS YOUR BLINDNESS ISN'T JUST A FEINT...

SO HE'S NOT GONNA JUST GET IT OVER WITH... SADISTIC FREAK!
HYUN (SWISH)
ZUBA (SLASH)
AGH!
I'M THE ONE WHO TAUGHT THE CANES VENATICI HOW TO FIGHT IN MELEE COMBAT.
FUU
HE'S GOOD TOO!
FUU (HUFF)

AND NONE OF MY PUPILS HAS SURPASSED HIS TEACHER.
I SEE...
SEEMS TO BE TRUE, GIVEN THAT NONE OF HIS UNDERLINGS ARE BOTHERING TO APPROACH.
BUT HOW DO I BEAT HIM!?
HAA
HAA (HURT)
ZU (SHMK)
ZUZU
PIKU (TWITCH)
WAIT A SECOND, IS THAT ...?

THAT'S A SWAMP. WATCH YOUR STEP.
BASHA
バ
ヤ
BASHA (SPLASH)
バ
ヤ

SUU (SHH)
スウ...
?
ZAZAA (SWSH)

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

WHILE SUBMERGED IN A SWAMP?
I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY.
CUTTING YOU DOWN!

チャプ
CHAPU (SPLISH)
THERE... I CAN "SEE" HIM...

SUIO STYLE, WAVE-CUTTING SLICE...
...SLIGHTLY MODIFIED.
AAAAGH!!

Until
Death
do us
Part

chapter 109

HOW!? THIS... CAN'T BE...
AAH!
GET OUT HERE AND SHOOT HIM!!
SOME-ONE! ANYONE!

...

WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON!?

I OWE YOU ONE. YOU'VE HELPED ME REALIZE TWO THINGS.

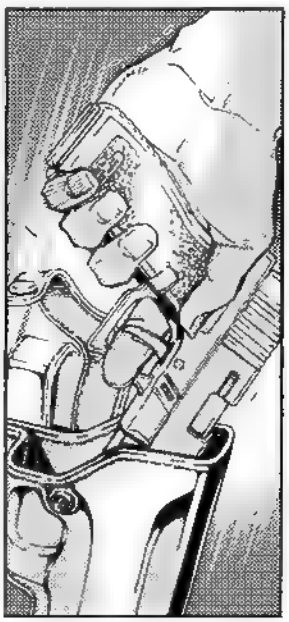
AHH... IT WAS HIM...

...OH, SHIT...

I REALIZE NOW THAT I'M AN AMATEUR, FAR FROM WHERE I TRULY NEED TO BE
FOR ONE, IF I DON'T WORK HARDER TO GAIN ABSOLUTE STRENGTH, IT WILL ONLY CAUSE NEEDLESS HARM TO THOSE AROUND ME.
AND TWO, THE FACT THAT LETTING IRREDEEMABLE SCUM LIKE YOU LIVE ONLY MEANS MISERY FOR THOUSANDS OF OTHERS
IN THE PAST, I NEVER ONCE SWUNG MY SWORD WITH LETHAL INTENT

BUT NOW I THINK I NEED TO CHANGE MY OUT-LOOK.
GA (GRAB)
BASHA (SPLASH)
EYAAH !!
BASHA

DIE.
GOBO (BUBBLE)



GAAN (BLAM)
SORRY PAL, BUT I NEED YOU TO LEAVE THAT SCUMBAG WHERE HE IS.
AAGH!
BA (SWISH)
KOFF, KOFF!
WHO'S THAT!?

WHAT!?
.....
JESUS!?
THAT VOICE ...
IS THAT YOU, JESUS?

I WATCHED THAT LITTLE MANEUVER.
AN ATTACK USING THE WATER, REFRACTING AND REFLECTING THE LIGHT WITH THE WAVES.

...

THIS GUY'S DANGEROUS. HE'S GOT A THOUSAND YEARS OF JAPAN'S DEADLY SWORD SKILLS BEHIND HIM.
HE COMMANDS PROPER RESPECT.

YOU TURNED THE CHALLENGE OF SLASHING UP THROUGH WATER INTO A STRENGTH BY CATCHING HIM UNAWARES.
AND THE MOVEMENT OF THE WATER TOLD YOU EXACTLY WHERE YOUR TARGET WAS.

WHAT KIND OF IDIOT TAKES AN ENEMY REPORT AT FACE VALUE?
I...I THOUGHT YOU HEADED FOR THE MAIN FORCE!
THAT'S HOW YOU WERE ABLE TO FIGHT BLIND.

THAT'S RIGHT...I USED YOU.
DON'T HOLD IT AGAINST ME.
SO YOU USED OUR FORCES AS BAIT TO MAKE ORION VULNERABLE?

OF COURSE YOU DID. WHEN IT'S ONE MAN AGAINST AN ENORMOUS FOE...
...YOU USE EVERY OPTION AVAILABLE TO WIN.

...AND I GOT RID OF HIS BODY-GUARDS.
I HELPED YOUR PAL, I MADE SURE THOSE TWO KIDS GOT AWAY...
TOOK LONGER THAN I WANTED, BUT I GOT PLENTY OF STUFF DONE ALONG THE WAY.
...
UNFORTUNATELY, IF WE KILL ORION NOW, I'LL LOSE SOME VERY VALUABLE INFORMATION.
...HIS EYES HAVE TAKEN SERIOUS DAMAGE...
IT'S UNLIKELY HIS SIGHT WILL EVER RECOVER.

HM !?
IT WON'T GO BACK IN THE SHEATH.
GU (TUG?)
IN TIME, IT'LL REGAIN ITS CURVE AND FIT BACK IN.
I GAVE IT SOME PRETTY VICIOUS SWIPES, PROBABLY HYPEREXTENDED THE BLADE.
...UN-BELIEV-ABLE...
VERY RARE, BUT IT DOES HAPPEN IN BATTLE.

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WITH HIM...?
N-NO...
ZABA! (SLOSH)
...
?
...OF THAT "FETTERS" DRUG YOU SEEM TO BE SO FOND OF?
IN FACT... I KNOW! WHY DON'T WE DO A LITTLE TEST...
DOSA (SHLUD)
AGH!
DON'T WORRY. PRETTY SOON HE'LL BE SCREAMING THAT HE WISHED YOU'D CUT HIM IN TWO WHILE YOU HAD THE CHANCE.
OH NO, YOU DON'T! YOU DON'T GET TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THIS!
N-NO! ANY-THING BUT THAT!

BASHA (SPLASH)
バシャ
DOSA (THUD)
ドサ
HE RUNS HIMSELF RAGGED, MOSTLY BLIND, BUT STILL NEVER STOPS CHASING DOWN THE ENEMY.
...HE'S A DEMON OF THE BLADE, ALL RIGHT...
A MAN THIS DRIVEN DOESN'T EASE UP IN HIS QUEST, BLIND OR NOT...

BABA (THUPPA)
BA
BA
BA
!?
I GOT GOOD NEWS, SAMURAI— WE BOTH MADE IT OUT ALIVE.
HE'S AWAKE.
...

L-LOOK MAN, I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT YOU COULDN'T HAVE DONE ANYTHING IN THAT STATE.
FUCK !!
DAN (WHAM)
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN! I BET JESUS WOULD HAVE SAVED THE WHOLE LOT OF US...
...AND WITHOUT SUFFERING THIS PATHETIC INJURY!
I'M STILL WEAK...
...
COME ON, HE'S THE GREATEST KILLER IN THE WORLD. YOU CAN'T COMPARE YOURSELF TO HIM...

IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD, HE LEFT THE NETWORK, CITING HIS OWN WEAKNESS...
...AND WENT TO TRAIN WITH INABA-SENSEI UNTIL HE COULD FIGHT WHILE BLIND.

YES. IT'S FOR THIS REASON THAT I CANNOT FAULT HIM FOR HIS APPARENT CRUELTY.

SO...THIS IS WHY...

YOU'RE BACK?

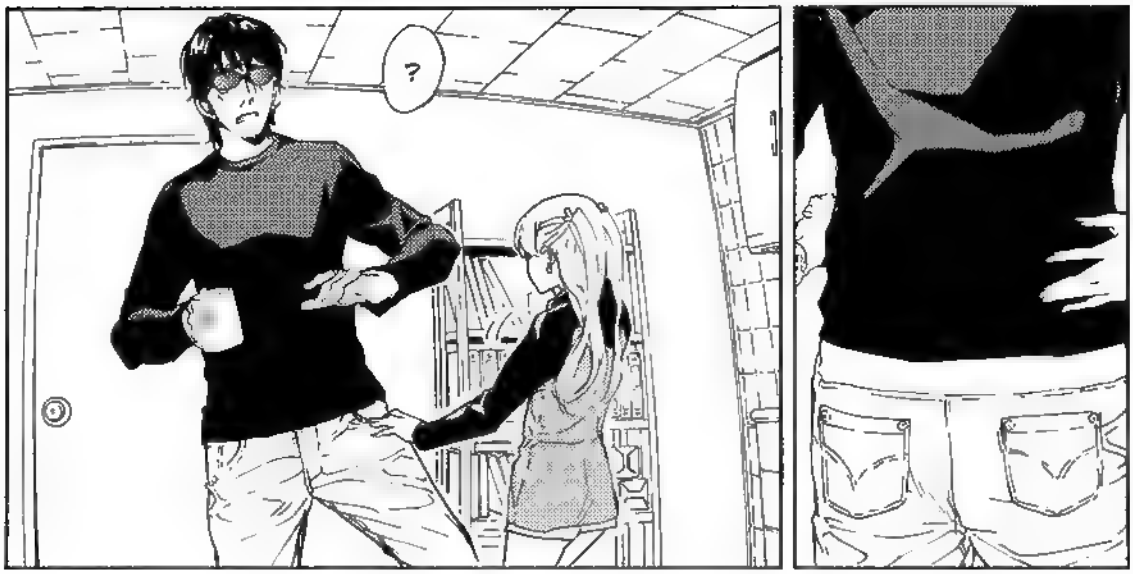
?
...
?
ТА
(ТЕР)

WHA
...?

WHA
...?

WHA ...?
HEY, GET THE HELL OFF ME!

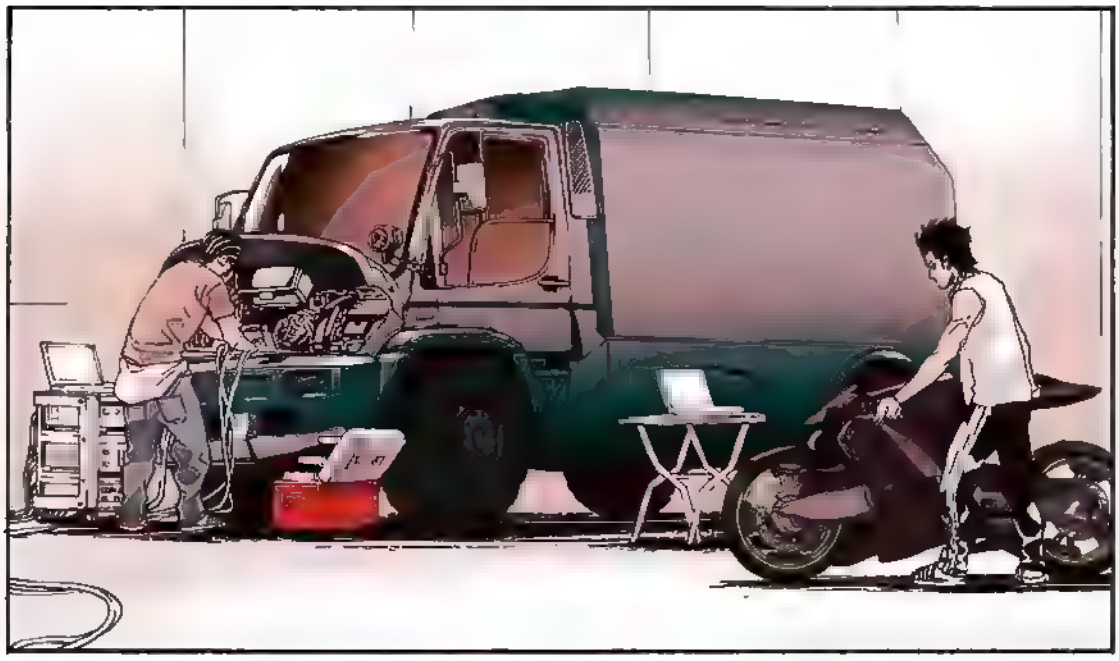
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU...?
...

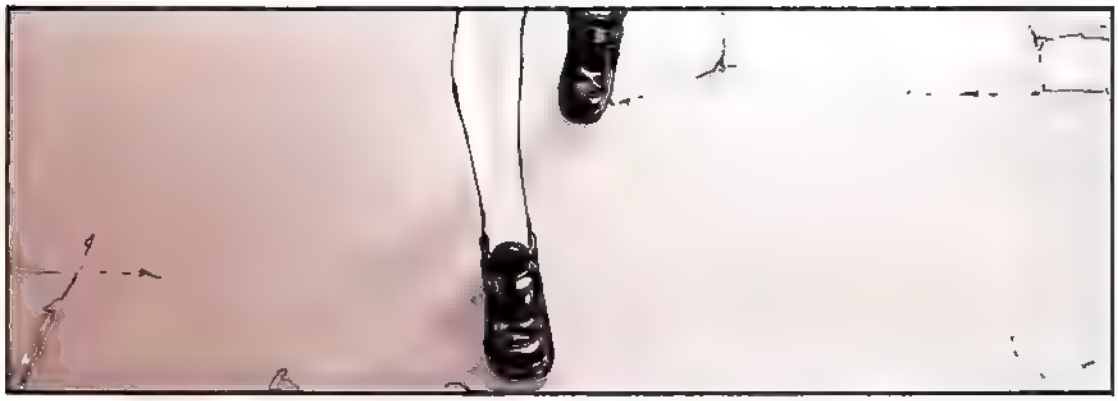

?

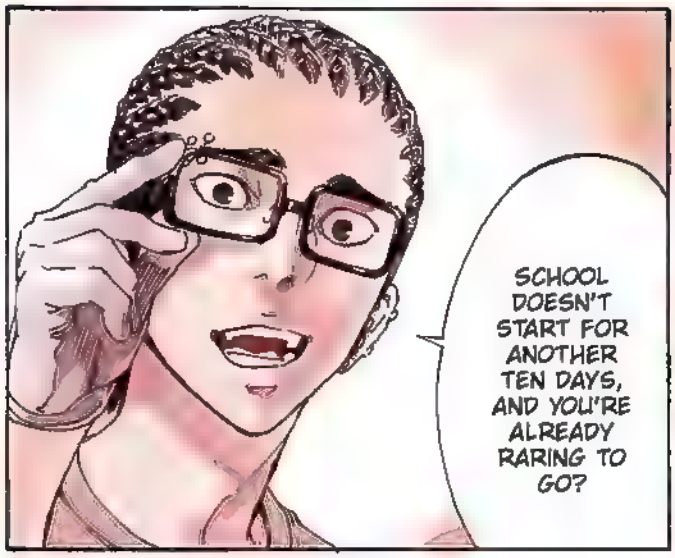
I DON'T CARE!
?
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR DINNER TONIGHT, MAMORU-SAN?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE'VE GOT NEW INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE NETWORK.
YOU MAKE NO SENSE.
LITTLE WEIRDO.
HUH ?
WHAT !?
AND YOU'RE THE MAIN ACTOR THIS TIME, HARUKA.
OH, AL-READY?

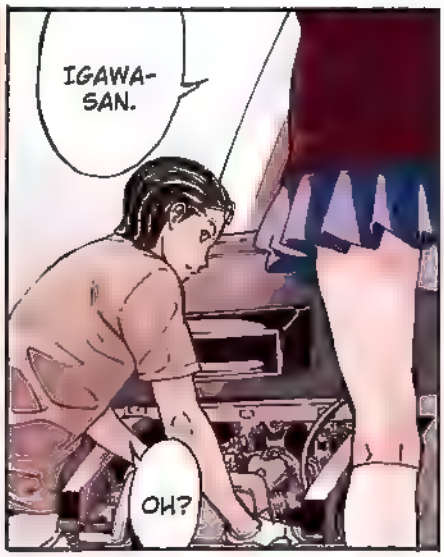
AITOU ACADEMY IN THE AISORA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT.
WAIT, ISN'T THAT ...?
WHEN THE SCHOOL TERM STARTS AFTER SUMMER VACATION, YOU'RE GOING TO A NEW SCHOOL.
JESUS ...!?
HEH-HEH! AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE HAPPENS TO BE TEACHING THERE.

Until
Death
do us
Part





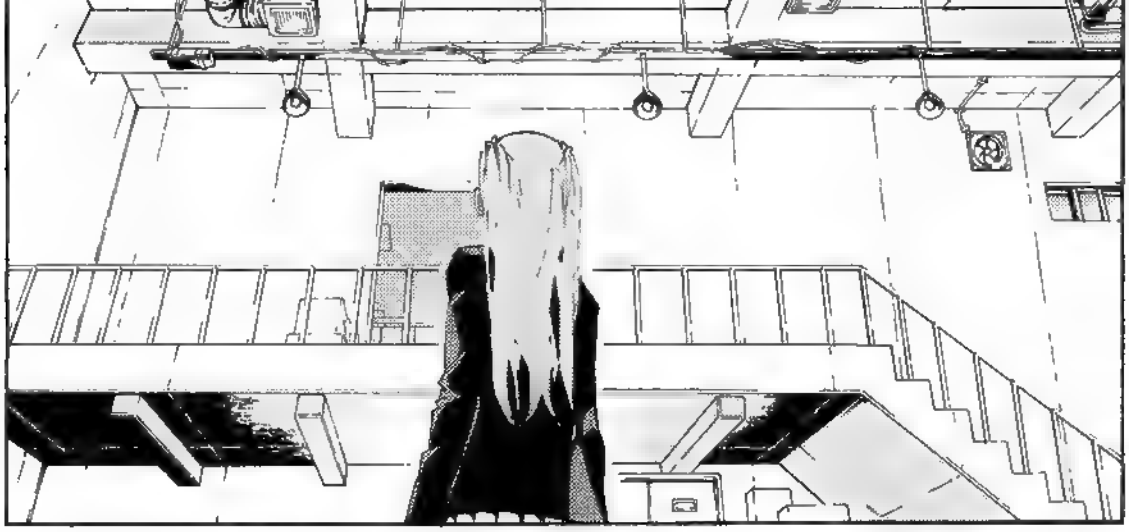

SCHOOL DOESN'T START FOR ANOTHER TEN DAYS, AND YOU'RE ALREADY RARING TO GO?


IGAWA-SAN.
OH?

chapter 110

...UH...
SURE...
HEY, NOW THAT'S PRETTY SHARP!
RIGHT, DAI?
REALLY?
IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO!?
WHAT? I SAID SHE LOOKS GOOD.
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE NOISE?

THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE SIERRA'S ROLE IN THE TEAM...
OH, YOUR UNIFORM?
I GUESS ALL JAPANESE STUDENTS REALLY DO WEAR THEM.
WHAT IS SHE UP TO RIGHT ABOUT NOW?
...



IT'S AGAINST THE RULES TO GO OVER MY HEAD AND ACCEPT OFFERS DIRECTLY.
TEA ROOM
SIREN
I CANNOT REFUSE IT.
I'M SORRY, ANNA. THIS ONE INVOLVES SAWATARI.

キィ
KII CREAK
TATE.

THE ONE WHO NEEDS ME DOES NOT KNOW I EXIST. WHAT AM I?
THE ONE WHO BOUGHT ME DOES NOT WANT ME, NOR WILL HE USE ME.
EH?
YOU'RE A "COFFIN."
UH...WHAT IS THIS, A RIDDLE?
!?
AM I RIGHT, MISS?

...
...WE HAVEN'T FOUND ANY TRACES OF THE COMPANIES BEING THREAT-ENED OR EXTORTED ...
...AND NONE OF THEM HAVE COME FORWARD WITH RE-PORTS FOR THE POLICE.
NOW, ABOUT THE PLUNDERERS WHO RAIDED A NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH COMPANIES IN EARLY MAY...
IT MAKES NO SENSE ...
SEEMS LIKE AISORA WAS AN UNEXPECTED JOB FOR THEM.
...HUH?
THE ONLY CONCRETE VICTIM AT PRESENT IS AISORA MEDICAL UNIVERSITY.
AND HONESTLY, WE DON'T HAVE ANY CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT IT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE PLUNDERERS.

IT'S QUITE LIKELY. TURUS IS ENTRENCHED IN JAPAN NOW, AND IF HE ACTS, HE'LL LEAVE A TRAIL.
WHAT IF...
...GALBOA'S ALREADY CUT TURUS LOOSE?
IT WAS A PROSTHETIC THAT WAS STOLEN, AFTER ALL.
BUT THERE'S NO INFORMATION AT ALL IN THE UNDERWORLD.
STILL, WE SHOULDN'T ASSUME THEY'VE CUT ALL TIES TO TURUS.
...BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, WE DON'T HAVE ANY LEADS ON THEIR ACTIVITY.
WE COULD ATTEMPT TO GET THE JUMP ON THEM BEFORE THEY TRY ANYTHING ELSE...
SO... UM...

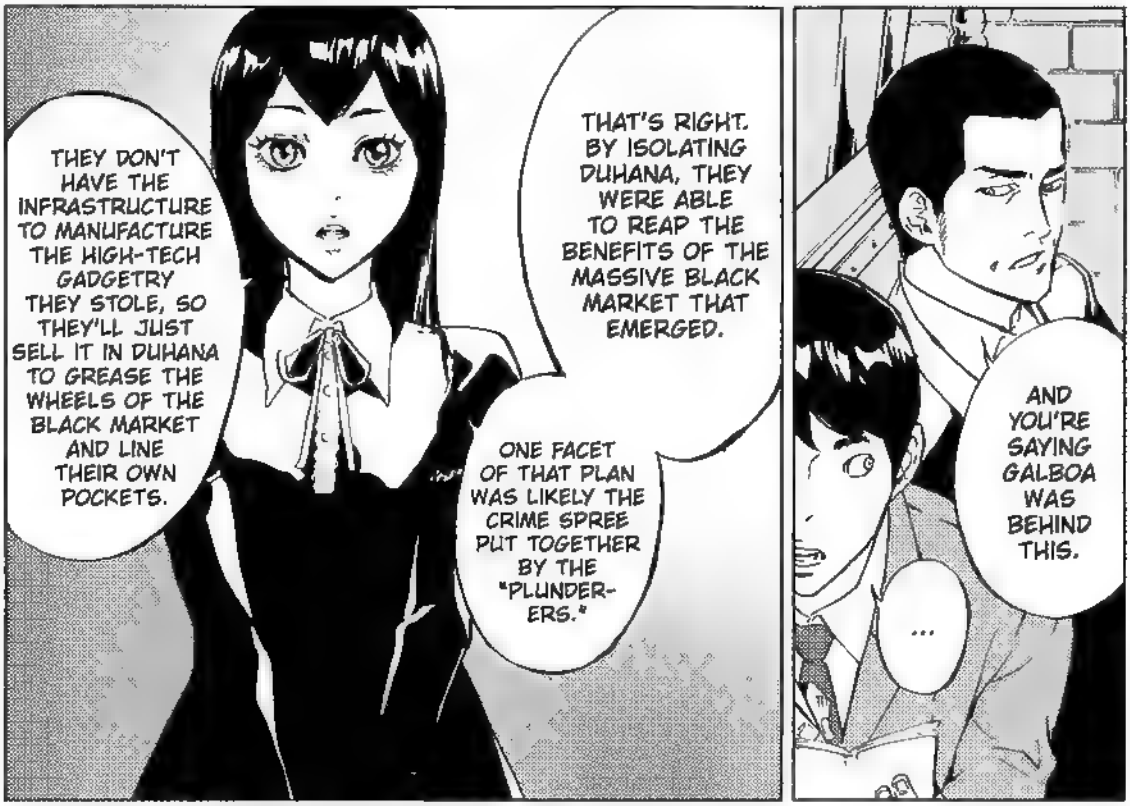
TSK
...
...
AND SO WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SIT BACK AND WAIT FOR MORE INNOCENT VICTIMS TO EMERGE...
CONSIDER THE GENESIS OF GALBOA AND THE SITUATION SHOULD BECOME CLEARER.
GALBOA IS A RELATIVELY NEW COUNTRY WITHIN AFRICA...
...A MILITARY NATION RULED BY AN APARTHEID SYSTEM.
SU (SHH)

DUHANA
GALBOA
ONE WAS THE "REPUBLIC OF GALBOA," A WHITE SOVEREIGN NATION, WHILE THE BLACKS WERE GIVEN THE QUASI-STATE OF "DUHANA."
WITH THE END OF APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA, IT ATTEMPTED TO DEFLECT INTERNATIONAL SCRUTINY BY SPLITTING INTO TWO COUNTRIES.

GO ON...
IT'S A COUNTRY THAT'S NOT OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED BY OTHER STATES WORLDWIDE.
QUASI-STATE?

...MAKING IT FERTILE GROUND FOR THE BLACK MARKET.
WITH NO ACCEPTANCE AND NO RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO SUPERVISION ...

PRESENTLY, NEARLY 80% OF ALL THE KINDS OF EXISTING WEAPONRY, FROM GUNS AND AMMUNITION TO WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, PASSES THROUGH DUHANA—TO SAY NOTHING OF DRUGS AND OTHER ILLICIT MATERIALS.
THEIR TRADING PARTNERS ARE VARIED, FROM ARMED TERRORIST GROUPS TO THIRD-PARTY COUNTRIES LIKE KADDAS, TO CRIMINAL SYNDICATES.


THEY DON'T HAVE THE INFRASTRUCTURE TO MANUFACTURE THE HIGH-TECH GADGETRY THEY STOLE, SO THEY'LL JUST SELL IT IN DUHANA TO GREASE THE WHEELS OF THE BLACK MARKET AND LINE THEIR OWN POCKETS.
THAT'S RIGHT. BY ISOLATING DUHANA, THEY WERE ABLE TO REAP THE BENEFITS OF THE MASSIVE BLACK MARKET THAT EMERGED.
ONE FACET OF THAT PLAN WAS LIKELY THE CRIME SPREE PUT TOGETHER BY THE "PLUNDERERS."
AND YOU'RE SAYING GALBOA WAS BEHIND THIS.
...

SO THEY SACRIFICE INNOCENT PEOPLE FOR THEIR OWN GAIN, FOISTING OFF THE RESPONSIBILITY ON THEIR NEIGHBORS.
IT MAKES ME SICK TO THINK ABOUT.
THAT'S WHY THEY WANT HIGH-TECH STUFF: EASY TO USE, EASY TO SELL.
NO, SPAR—
A FRIEND OF MINE TRADED ME THAT INTELLIGENCE, AND THE OTHER HALF WAS CONJECTURE BASED ON THAT.
YOU'VE GOT QUITE SOME INFORMATION NETWORK, YOUNG MISS.
DID YOU LOOK THAT UP AHEAD OF TIME FOR US?
I THINK YOU'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK, THOUGH...

THIS IS WELL BEYOND THE PURVIEW OF A SINGLE POLICEMAN.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO PULL BACK, NOW'S THE TIME TO DO IT.
...
NOPE.
I'VE ALREADY PAID PLENTY OF PRICES FOR THIS LEAD, AND I DON'T LET GO ONCE I'VE STARTED SOMETHING.
ポンッ
PON (PAT)
?

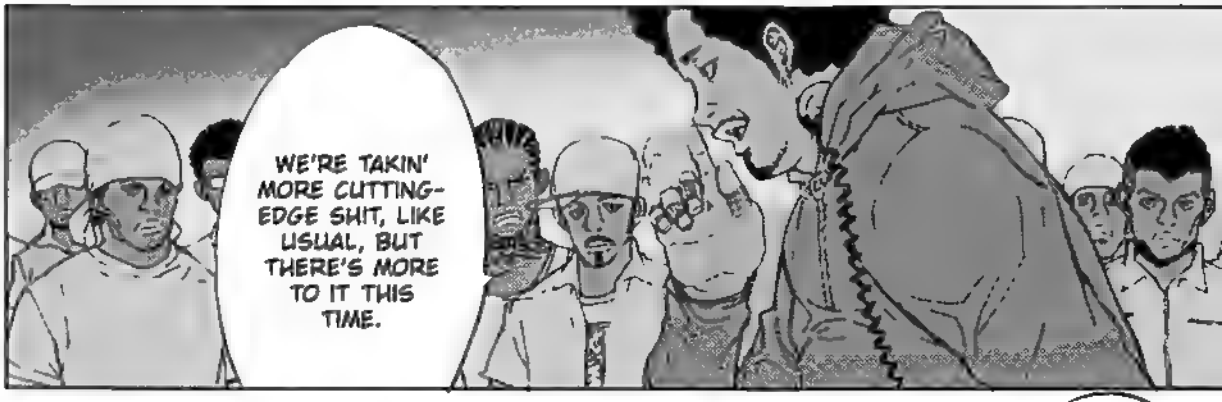
THANK YOU.
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A CHILD, DETECTIVE GENDA.
TO AN OLD MAN LIKE ME, HALF THE WORLD IS CHILDREN.
LET ME ASK YOU THIS:
WHAT TECH DO YOU THINK IS MOST LIKELY TO BE TARGETED NEXT?

...I SEE...
I BELIEVE THE MICROCHIP GPS THAT KANAE INDUSTRIES JUST DEVELOPED IS HIGHLY CUSTOMIZABLE FOR WEAPONRY.
HMM?
...

DOO-
DAT-
DAT!
DOO-
DOOBY!
DOO-
DOO!
Boom
Boom

A
I
Yo!
Y'ALL HERE, MY WARRIORS?

LISTEN UP! HERE'S THE OPERATION IN JAPAN...


WE'RE TAKIN' MORE CUTTING-EDGE SHIT, LIKE USUAL, BUT THERE'S MORE TO IT THIS TIME.

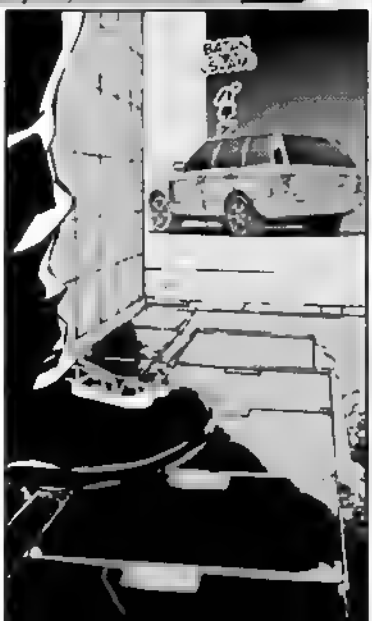
(BEEP)
A LITTLE SIDE JOB WE'RE KEEPIN' OFF THE BOOKS FROM THE FOLKS AT HOME.

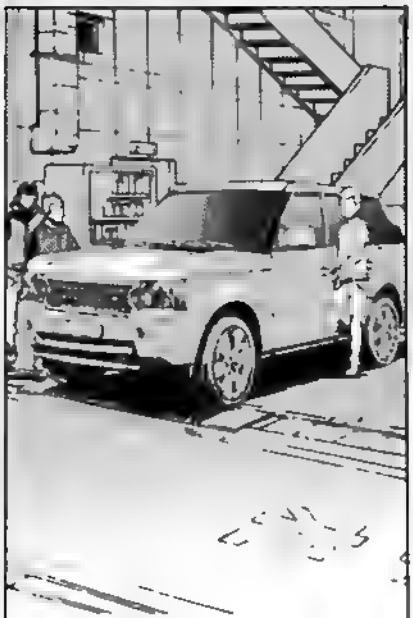
WE KILL THIS GUY AND TAKE THE GIRL
WITH THE KIND OF MONEY EDGE TURUS PUT ON THEIR HEADS, WE'RE GONNA LIVE LIKE KINGS BACK HOME
WE'RE TREATED LIKE SHIT IN OUR OWN HOMELAND !!
SWEAR LOYALTY TO ME AND WE'LL OVERCOME THAT BARRIER!!
FOLLOW MY LEAD! GIVE ME YOUR LIVES!!

GENIE !!
GENIE !!
GENIE !!
GENIE !!
GENIE !!
A FAR CRY FROM THE STRAW MEN MY PIECE OF SHIT BROTHER HIRED!!
HEH-HAH-HAH...MY MEN ARE ELITE WARRIORS FROM EVERY TRIBE IN GALBOA!

Until
Death
do us
Part

KANAE
INDUSTRIAL
RESEARCH
AND DEVE-
LOPMENT LAB
パシャ
パシャ

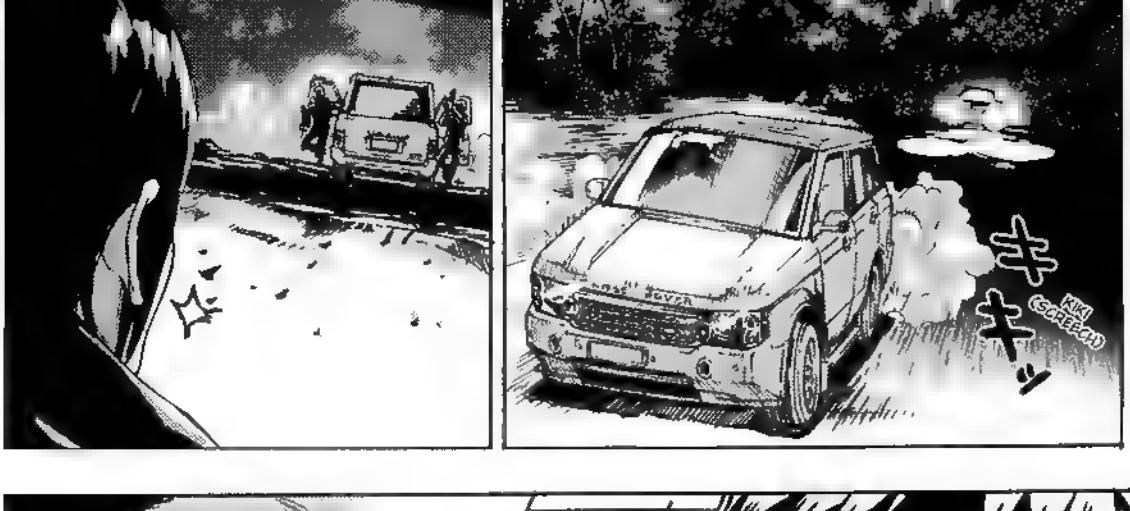




chapter 11

...THEY'RE STILL CASING THE PLACE...
AT LEAST WE'VE GOT THE JUMP ON THEM THIS TIME.
ブロロロ...
BURORORO

...I AGREE WITH YOU THERE...
WHEN WE MOVE IN ON THEM, I WANT IT TO BE IN A PLACE WITH AS FEW CIVILIANS AND OTHER VEHICLES AS POSSIBLE.
HOW CONVE-NIENT.
DID THEY NOTICE US?
ブオオオ


キキッ
KIKI (SCREECH)

BAIL OUT!

DA
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA
DADA (RATTA)
DA

ガ
GA
ガ
GA
ガ
GA
ドン
DOGA
(KRUDD)
ガッ
ダダダダ
DA
DA
DA
DA

BO
(BSHH)

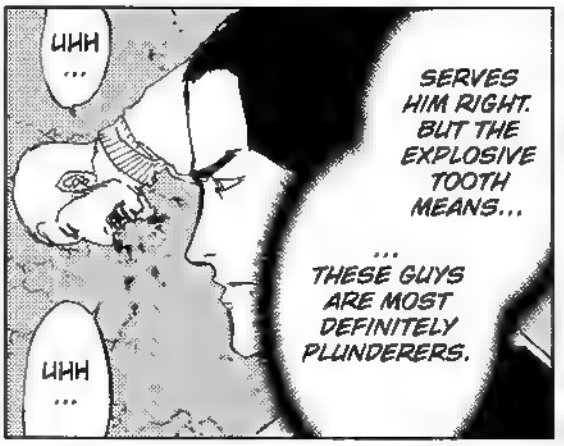
ガ
ア ア
ドガッ
«SHIT!»

BAKI (DRUNK)
キイッ
AAGH!
CAPA RATTLE
DA
GA (GAK)

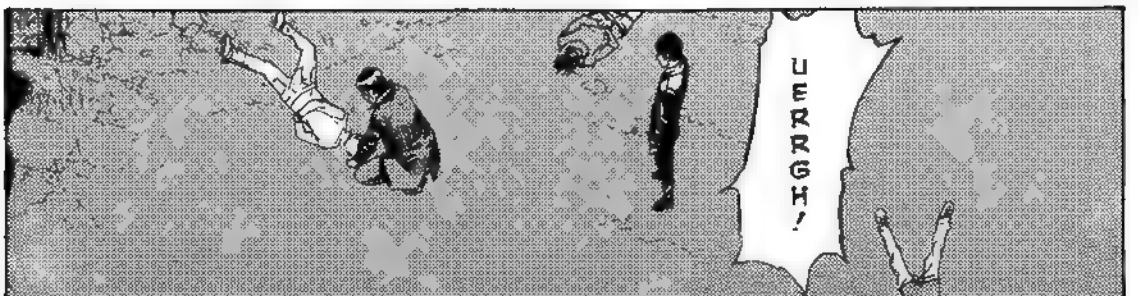
F-FUCKIN' MONSTER!
I'LL BE DAMNED...

IT'S AS THOUGH THIS LIFE-OR-DEATH BATTLE IS A DAILY OCCURRENCE TO HIM.
I DISLOCATED HIS JAW SO HE CAN'T SELF-DESTRUCT.
IT'S PACKED IN THE TRUNK. I DON'T THINK THESE SMALL ARMS THEY'VE GOT WILL BE ABLE TO PIERCE THROUGH THAT ARMOR.
WHAT ABOUT THE REMOTE DETONATION JAMMER? DON'T WANT SOMEONE ELSE BEING ABLE TO BLOW US UP FROM AFAR.
BUT JUST IN CASE...

GAKK...
AAAH
!!


UHH
...
SERVES HIM RIGHT. BUT THE EXPLOSIVE TOOTH MEANS...
...
THESE GUYS ARE MOST DEFINITELY PLUNDERERS.
UHH
...

THAT LOOKS PAINFUL.


UERRGH!

WHAT'S UP?
THEY WON'T TALK EASILY, BUT I THINK WE'VE GOT ENOUGH PHYSICAL EVIDENCE TO CONVINCE THE BRASS.
...THE BUGS ARE QUIET...

ガキ
GAKIIN (KCHIING)
TATE!!
PASHU (PSHU)

TAKE COVER!
I CAN'T TAKE TOO MANY LARGE-CALIBER BULLETS!
SO THEY HAD A SNIPER IN THE WINGS
NO, HE WOULD HAVE ATTACKED SOONER. THIS MUST HAVE BEEN THE TIME IT TOOK HIM TO GET INTO POSITION AFTER BEING CALLED

YOU FROM GALBOA?
Are you Tate the Regis?
I guess you could call me "Shiedabra."
I'm with the "Black Unit," Duhana's elite...
YOU COULD HAVE SAVED THEM FROM US!
WHY DID YOU SHOOT YOUR OWN MEN!?

They're the remnants of Turus's group. Captain only used them...
...as a stopgap until our main force arrives.
Those white Galboan devils are no friends of mine!
WHERE'S THE PROSTHETIC LIMB YOU STOLE FROM AISORA!?
I wouldn't know about that.
AND NOW THE USELESS FUCKS GOT CAUGHT AND NEEDED ME TO WASTE MY BULLETS ON THEM!
IT MAKES NO SENSE... WHY WOULD HE BOTHER TALKING TO US? ARRO-GANCE?
OR IS IT...?

I've got business with him, not the Regis.
WHAT?
By the way, is your old samurai friend with you this time?
HIM AND THE GIRL WITH HIM.
SO HARUKA TOOYAMA'S STILL IN DANGER...
YOU MEAN... THEY USED THESE MEN AS DECOYS JUST TO DRAW US OUT!?

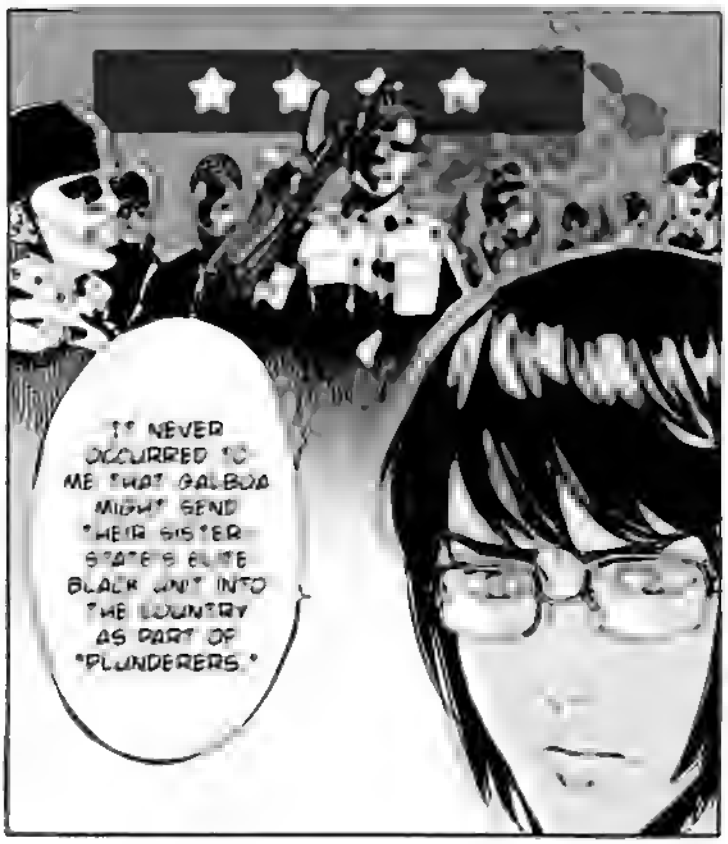
THEY DISTRACTED US AND TOOK SEPARATE POSITIONS.

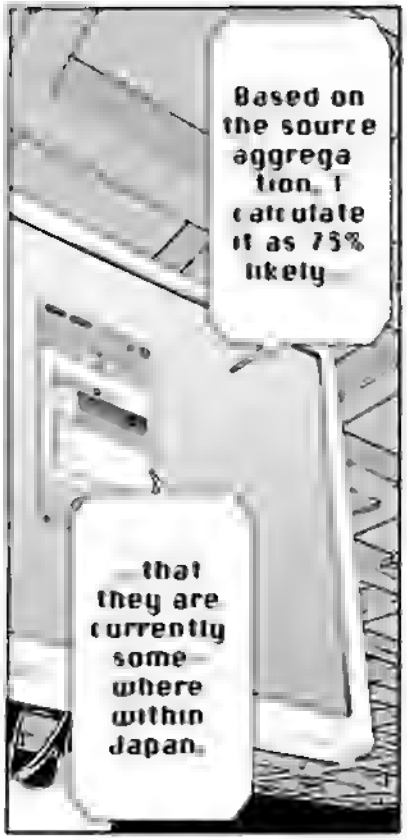
ダッ
ハッ

PAK!
(CRAK!)
BUWA
(SWOOSH)

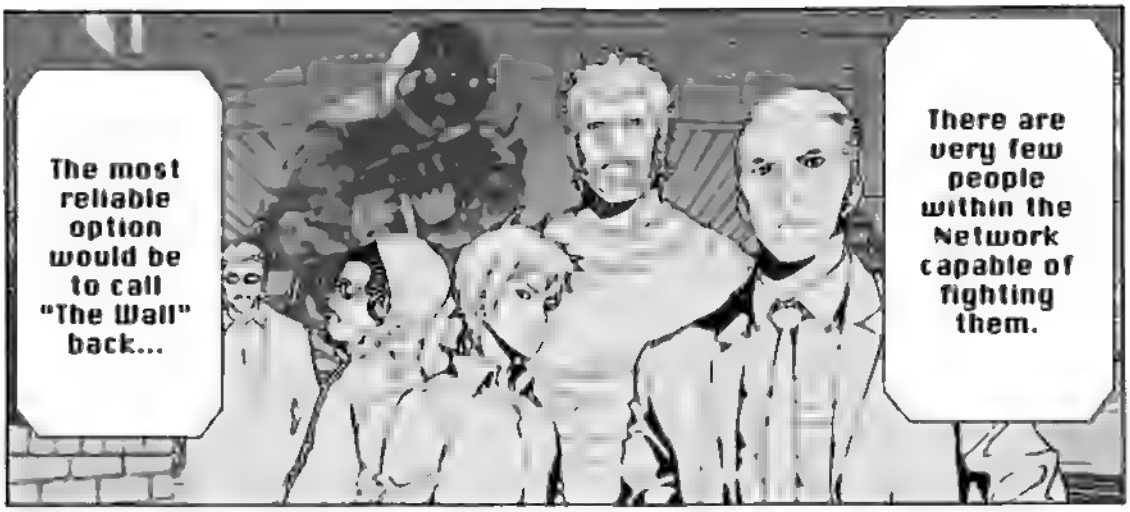
!?
STICKY FOAM!?

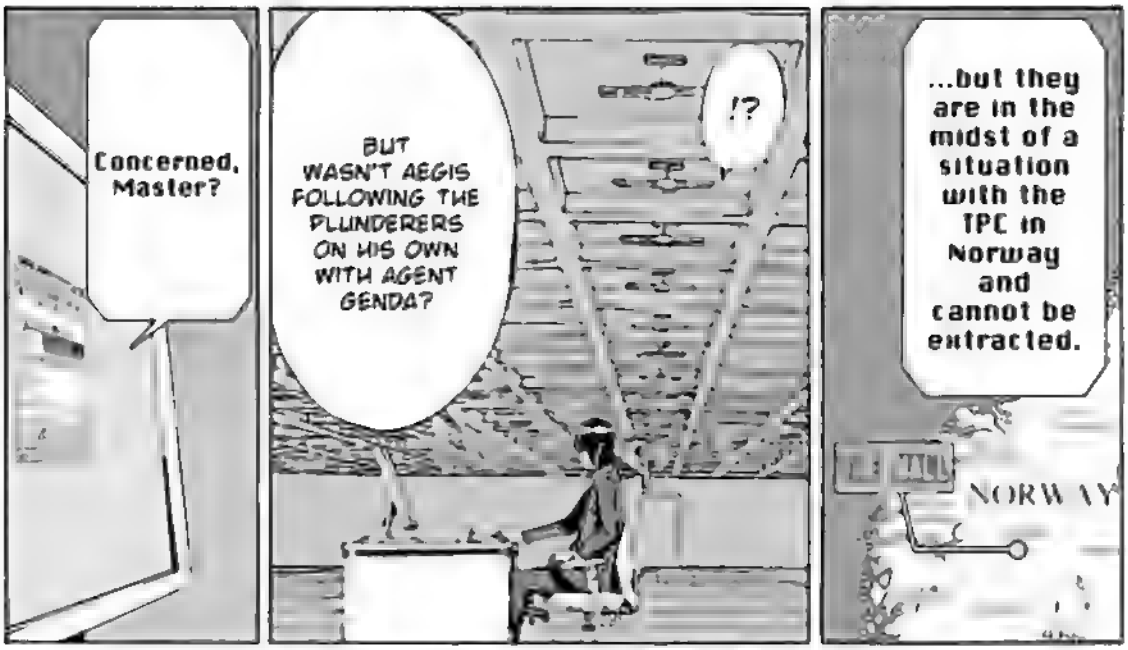
chapter 112


IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT GALBOA MIGHT SEND THEIR SISTER STATE'S ELITE BLACK UNIT INTO THE COUNTRY AS PART OF "PLUNDERERS."



that they are currently some- where within Japan.


The most reliable option would be to call "The Wall" back...
There are very few people within the Network capable of fighting them.


Concerned, Master?
BUT WASN'T AEGIS FOLLOWING THE PLUNDERERS ON HIS OWN WITH AGENT GENDA?
!?
...but they are in the midst of a situation with the IPC in Norway and cannot be extracted.
NORWAY

I ONLY HOPE THAT HE'LL BE SAFE. GIVEN WHO WE'RE UP AGAINST...
HE'S A GOOD FRIEND, AND WORTHY OF RESPECT...

ズル…

DA
(DASH)
UGH!

BA
BA (SLICE)
HE'S FAST!
BA
BA
TA STEP

INSANE ATHLETI-CISM!

ガガガ

THIS IS NO ORDINARY SPECIAL FORCES SOLDIER...
HE'S FAR TOUGHER THAN I EXPECTED ...
ピクッ
ZAZA (ZZZP)
DA (DASH)

!
THAT PRETENTIOUS SHIT CALLS HIMSELF A "PROTECTOR WHO NEVER KILLS". JUST CRUSH HIM ALREADY!
TSK! GARA'S TOO CLOSE— I CAN'T SHOOT HIM! WHY IS HE TAKING SO LONG AGAINST THIS CHUMP?
WON'T BE ENOUGH TO STOP ME FROM DOING MY JOB, THOUGH.
THE FACT THAT HE'S EVADING GARA'S ATTACKS TELLS ME HOW GOOD THIS GUY IS.
BUT STILL... HE KEEPS MOVING TO KEEP GARA'S BODY DIRECTLY IN MY LINE OF FIRE.

BAM (THWUMP)
HYUN (ZIP)

THERE'S A SNIPER !!
DAMN! I HAD A GOOD SHOT TOO.

C'MON I THINK I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THIS GUY
HE SLACKED OFF A BIT ON THE RADIO SO I HAD A HUNCH
I KNOW

PASHU
PSHU
GAK!!
(KCHIING)

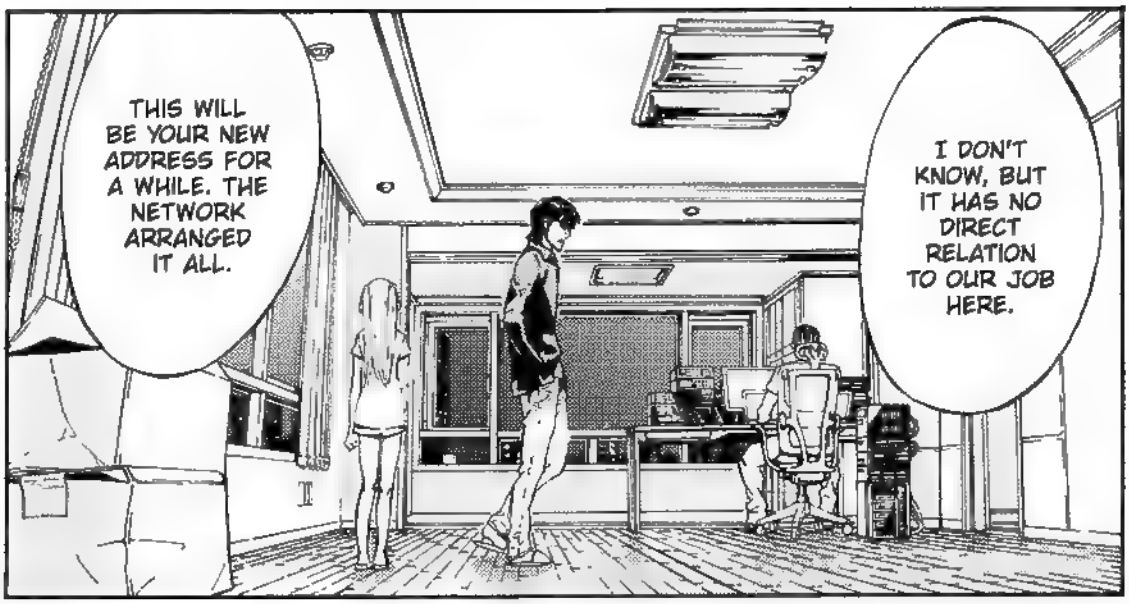
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME!
YOUR FANGS WILL NEVER REACH HIM!!

NO... I THINK THEY'RE LETTING US GO BECAUSE WE'RE NOT THE TARGETS HERE.
ARE THEY PULLING OUT?
...
THE BIG FELLOW NOTICED THE SHIFT AT ONCE AND RETREATED.
THE INSTANT HE STOOD IN FRONT OF ME AND ASSUMED HIS PROPER ROLE AS A PROTECTOR, HIS ENTIRE BEING CHANGED.
NOT QUITE.
AND THERE ARE DOZENS OF OTHERS LIKE HIM?
IT JUST MEANS BOTH YOU AND THE ENEMY ARE PROFES-SIONALS.
THEY'RE GOOD— VERY GOOD.

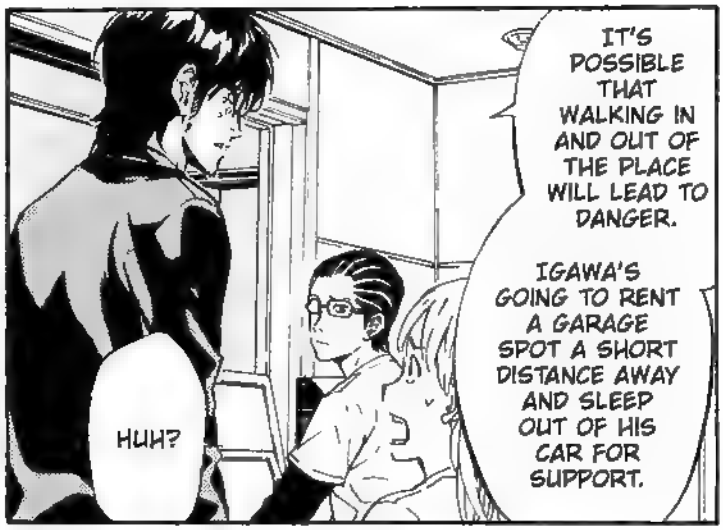
HE'S GOT SOME NASTY FELLOWS AFTER HIM.
MOST LIKELY. THIS EQUIPMENT IS CLEARLY MEANT FOR MAMORU HIJIKATA, HOWEVER.
JESUS IS CURRENTLY WORKING AS A TEACHER AT AITOU ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL UNDER THE PSEUDONYM SHINGO FUJISAWA.

HUH? WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WE'RE NOT EXACTLY SURE WHY THEY'D GO TO THAT KIND OF ELABORATE TROUBLE YET...
...BUT I'VE GOT MY IDEAS.
THE THING IS, AN ENEMY SYNDICATE NAMED "24" HAS SEVERAL ASSASSINS INFILTRATING THE SCHOOL AS FACULTY AND STUDENTS.
THE PROBLEM IS THAT JESUS HOLDS THE INHERITANCE OF THE GROUP'S LEADER, A MAN NAMED KING.
IT HAS TO DO WITH 24'S SITUATION.
THEY'VE EXISTED WITHIN JAPAN IN SECRET FOR YEARS AND YEARS, A SORT OF "UNDERGROUND INTERMEDIARY" BETWEEN VARIOUS GROUPS WORKING OUTSIDE THE LAW.
THEY HAD CONNECTIONS WORLDWIDE AND INVOLVEMENT IN PLENTY OF CRIME UNTIL JESUS BURNED THEIR ORGANIZATION TO THE GROUND. THEIR CURRENT FORM WAS SCRAPED TOGETHER FROM THE ASHES.

SO WHY WOULD HE EXPOSE HIMSELF TO DANGER BY STAYING IN A SINGLE PLACE LIKE THAT?
AND THEY WANT IT BACK? ...SO THEY CAN'T USE FORCE.
EXACTLY.
HEH-HEH-HEH! MAYBE HE WORKS BETTER WITH HIS BACK AGAINST THE WALL.
HE'S ONE CRAFTY SON OF A GUN, SEE.
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE IN ANY POSITION TO TALK...
A REAL WEIRDO, IF YOU ASK ME.
I UNDERSTAND. AND...WHAT EXACTLY IS THE "INHERITANCE" YOU MENTIONED?
YOUR JOB IS TO ENTER THE SCHOOL AS A STUDENT, FORESEE ANY POTENTIAL DAMAGE THE BATTLE BETWEEN JESUS AND 24 MIGHT CAUSE TO THE KIDS OR TEACHERS, AND MANAGE THEIR SAFETY.


THIS WILL BE YOUR NEW ADDRESS FOR A WHILE. THE NETWORK ARRANGED IT ALL.
I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT HAS NO DIRECT RELATION TO OUR JOB HERE.

SEEMS LIKE THAT'S ALL I DO THESE DAYS.
DON'T WORRY, I'M USED TO IT.
BUT—


IT'S POSSIBLE THAT WALKING IN AND OUT OF THE PLACE WILL LEAD TO DANGER.
IGAWA'S GOING TO RENT A GARAGE SPOT A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY AND SLEEP OUT OF HIS CAR FOR SUPPORT.
HUH?

I HAD A SIMPLE BED INSTALLED IN THE VAN.
ALSO, WE GOT SOME CONTRACTORS TO INSPECT THE SCHOOL FOR EXPLOSIVES, AND I HAD THEM SNEAK IN A BUNCH OF MONITORING DEVICES.
I THINK WE'LL BE SAFE ENOUGH.

ALL RIGHT ...
BUT ARE YOU SURE I CAN GO JUST LIKE THIS?
UNDER MY REAL NAME, WITH NO DISGUISE? WE'VE BEEN SO CAREFUL ABOUT THAT UNTIL NOW.
THAT'S RIGHT. AND THIS TIME, YOU'LL BE ATTENDING THE HIGH SCHOOL RATHER THAN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL. IT'S A LOT OF PRESSURE.
WHAAAAT!?
Y-Y-YOU DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT THAT!!
JESUS TEACHES HIGH SCHOOL.
AND IT'LL BE MORE ENTER-TAINING THAT WAY ANYHOW.
B-BUT WON'T THE CLASSES BE HARD!?
HOW WILL I MANAGE !?
IT'LL PROBABLY BE TOUGHER FOR FUJISAWA-SENSEI THAN YOU.
UHH...

...
I'VE GOT A NUMBER OF SCORES TO SETTLE WITH HIM, SO THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO STRAIGHTEN THE BOOKS.
ピッ (BEEP)
NO PROBLEM...
HEY, CAN YOU SEE THE MONITORS?
ACTUALLY, I CAN THINK OF SEVERAL PROBLEMS ...
...

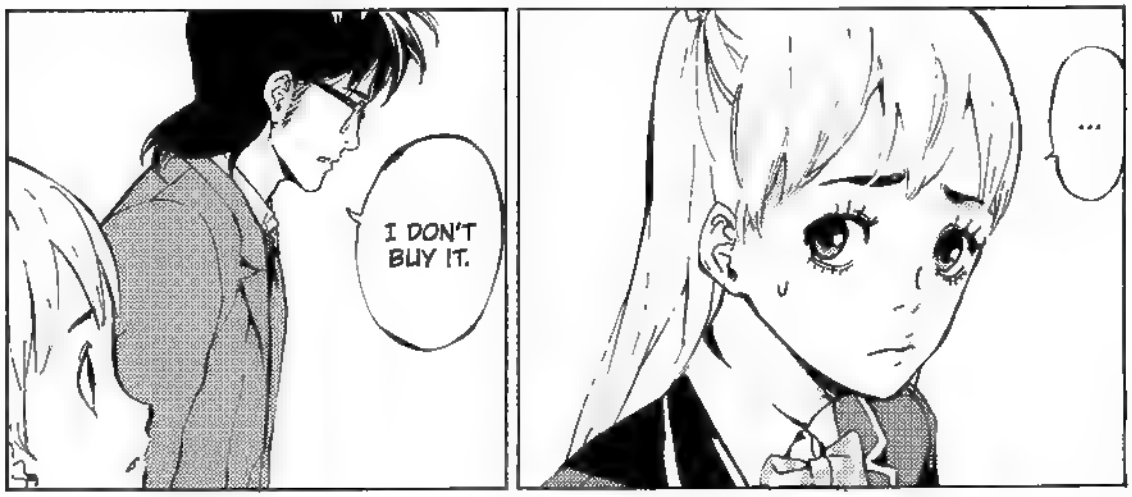
AND THEN CAME...
...THE NEW SCHOOL TERM, FRAUGHT WITH APPREHEN-SION...

chapter 113

HEY THERE, MOST WANTED.
...
WELL, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE AFTER.
WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?

COCKY BASTARD ...
THAT WAY YOU ENSURE NO FURTHER ENEMIES COME TO ATTACK.
IT'S PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO PROTECT THE ENTIRE SCHOOL, SO YOU CALL IN A FEW PROFESSIONAL FOES TO FORM A KIND OF STAND-OFF TRUCE.

SO WE'RE HERE TO ASSIST YOU IN YOUR EFFORT.

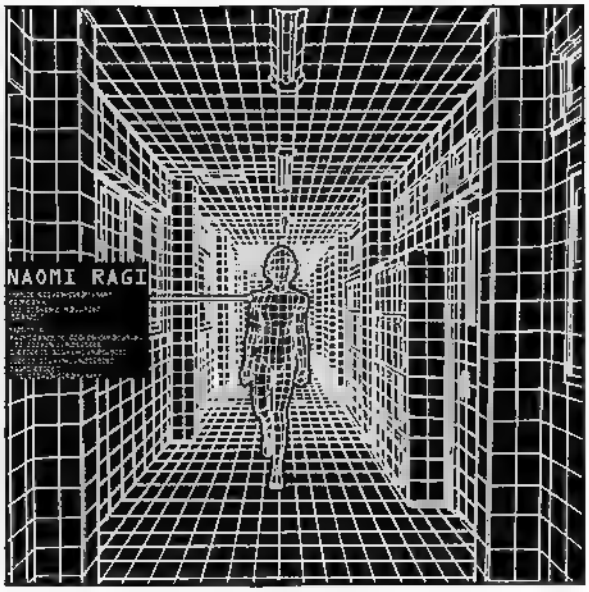

I DON'T BUY IT.
...

...
HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE NOT JUST FOISTING THE GIRL OFF ON ME AND DRAWING ALL THE VULTURES AFTER HER RECORD-SETTING BOUNTY HERE, JUST TO MAKE ME FINISH THEM OFF FOR YOU?
...
...I'M SCARED...

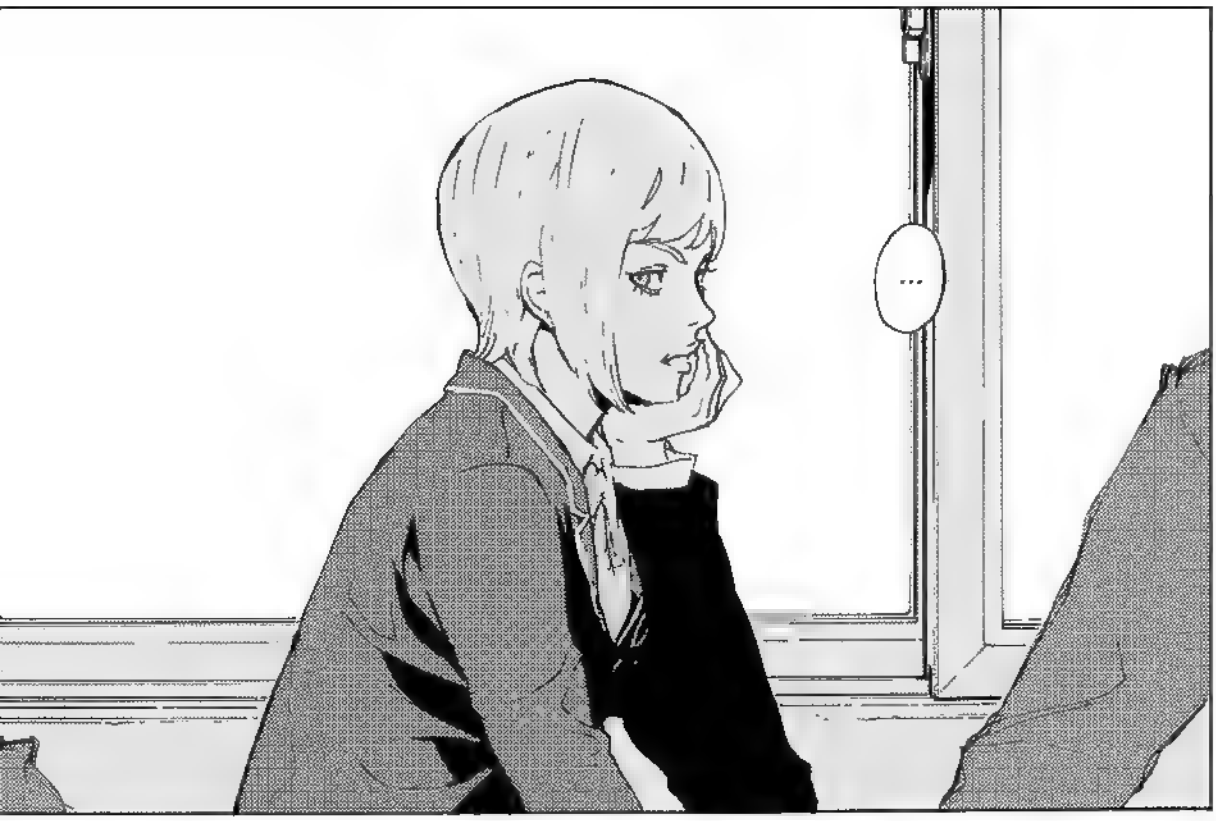
SHE'S IN YOUR HANDS, "FUJISAWA-SENSEI"...
WELL, HERE'S WHERE I LEAVE YOU.
RELATIVES ARE ASKED TO VISIT THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE.
YES, I OUGHT TO GO GIVE MY GREETINGS. TEACHER CAN SHOW YOU WHERE TO GO NOW.
UM, OKAY.

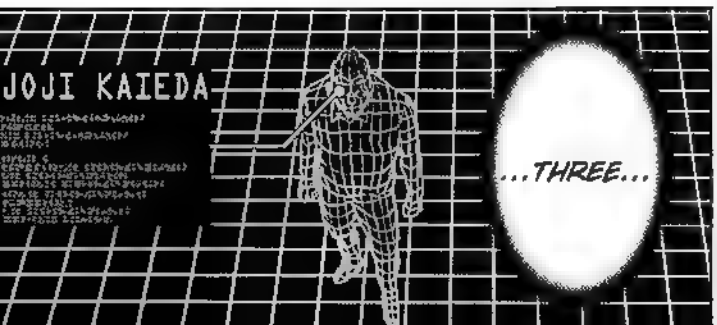
SO THIS IS HOW THE SON OF A BITCH GETS HIS PAYBACK...

... THERE'S ONE...

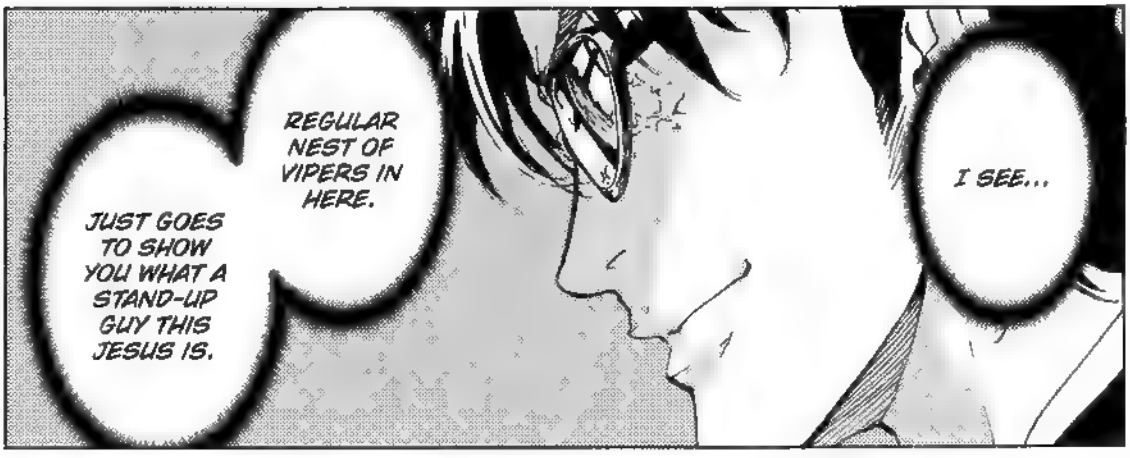

NAOMI RAGI

...
ピッ
(BEEP)
...TWO...

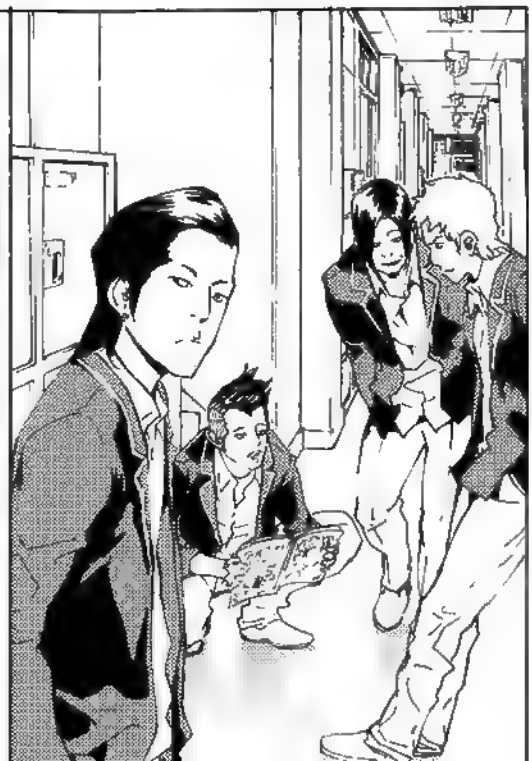

...

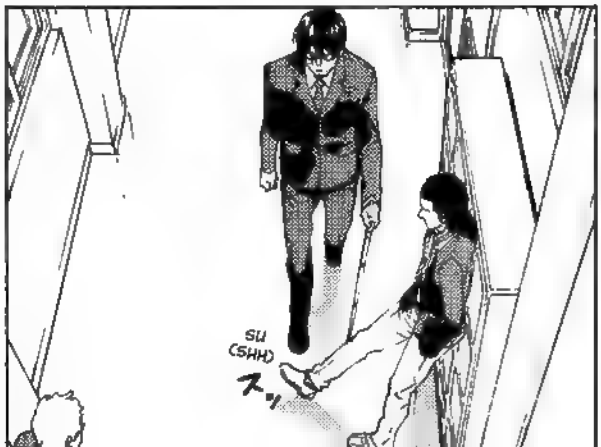

JOJI KAIEDA
...THREE...

...FOUR...


I SEE...
REGULAR NEST OF VIPERS IN HERE.
JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU WHAT A STAND-UP GUY THIS JESUS IS.

KO (OK)
コッ
KO
コッ




SU (SHH)
スッ

DOSU (SHUDD)
YEOWWW!!
OW, OW, OW!!

G-GET OFF...MY FOOT...
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT FOR!?

GURI (TWIST)
GURI
AAAAGH!!
YOU KIDS NEED TO LEARN SOME MANNERS ...

YOU SON OF A BITCH!!
DON'T THE TEACHERS HERE BEAT ANY DISCIPLINE INTO YOU?
AAAH! AAAAH!
STOP THIS AT ONCE!
YOU THERE! WHAT'S GOING ON!?

MIO HASEKURA
IS THAT YOU, BLADE?
YOU'RE "NEEDLE," THE SURVEILLANCE AGENT WE SENT IN?

BECAUSE SHE'LL BE MORE USEFUL THAN YOU.
AND I'M NOT REALLY IN ANY STATE TO DO INFILTRATION.
WHY DID YOU BRING THE GIRL INTO THIS!?
...
IT ISN'T A HEALTHY ENVIRON-MENT.
THAT'S NOT MY CALL, THOUGH. IT HAPPENS HIGHER UP.
I'M NOT GOING TO BACK OUT OF THIS JOB!
LOOK, ANYWAY ...
...JUST KEEP DOING YOUR DUTY HERE. IT'LL TAKE TIME TO ARRANGE A REPLACEMENT.

WHERE'S THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE?

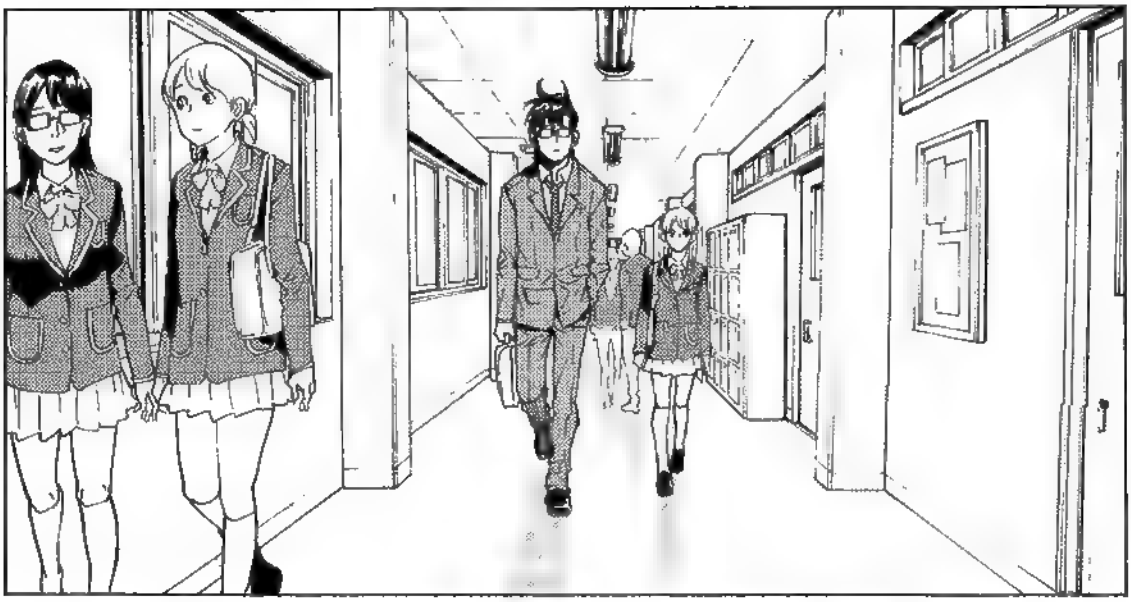
STRAIGHT DOWN THE HALLWAY!

WHO'S THERE ...!?

"MEMORY"?
HUH?
WHO ARE YOU!?
I'M THE SCHOOL MEDIC, ITOU.
IT SEEMED LIKE YOU WERE SIGHT-IMPAIRED, SO I WAS GOING TO OFFER TO GUIDE YOU AROUND.
MEMORY

...
WON'T BE NECES-SARY.
...
THAT'S RIGHT, OUR AGENTS MENTIONED HIM IN THE REPORT. BUT I WASN'T EXPECTING A MAN OF THAT CALIBER ...
...A FIFTH!? HE TOTALLY SLIPPED IN BEHIND ME UNDER MY RADAR.

HEH-HEH... VERY GOOD!
HERE I THOUGHT I'D BE ABOVE IT ALL, BUT I WAS WRONG.
IT'S PRACTICALLY A THEME PARK, THERE ARE SO MANY ATTRACTIONS.
MAKES ME WISH I COULD BE A STUDENT HERE, RATHER THAN HARUKA ...



...WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

...

MORNING.

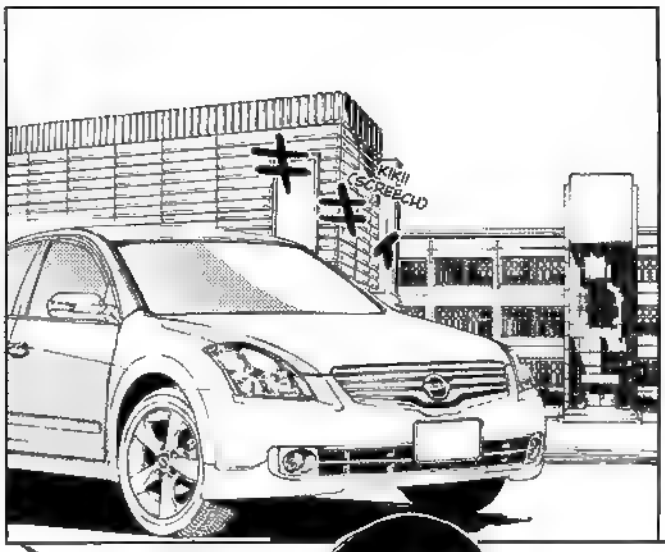
GOOD MORNING!

WHY ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH THAT DEMON?
UM, WELL... I...
HUH!?
IS IT...THE BOUNTY?
IT'S A VERY IMPRESSIVE SUM INDEED, BUT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN SUCH THINGS.

BUT IF THE TIME SHOULD COME WHEN HE TURNS HIS BLADE ON ME
ソクッ
!?

...ONE OF US WILL DIE. BE WELL AWARE OF THAT.
...

ガチャッ
GACHAN
(CLICK)


キキィ
KIKII
(SCREECH)

SO THIS IS THE PLACE...

chapter 114

...
AAWM
...
GACHA (CLICK)
ガチャ
GARA (RATTLE)
ガラ
GARA

WELCOME HOME, SENJI-SAN. YOU'RE BACK EARLY.
PUSHU (PSHK)
UH... HI...
OUT OF MONEY AGAIN?
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT.
YEAH, WELL...THE GANG'S NO MORE.
OH MY GOOD-NESS!
YOU ALWAYS COME BACK HOME WHEN YOUR WALLET IS LIGHT.

WHAT'S THAT? A NEW GIRLFRIEND?
ACTUALLY, I FEEL BETTER ABOUT THE WHOLE THING.
NOW I'VE REALLY FOUND MY REASON FOR LIVING.
...
ER... SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

WHERE'S MY "HAVE A GOOD DAY"?
(VWEB) ウィィ
...IS THAT GIRL EVEN CAPABLE OF WORKING IN A GROUP...?

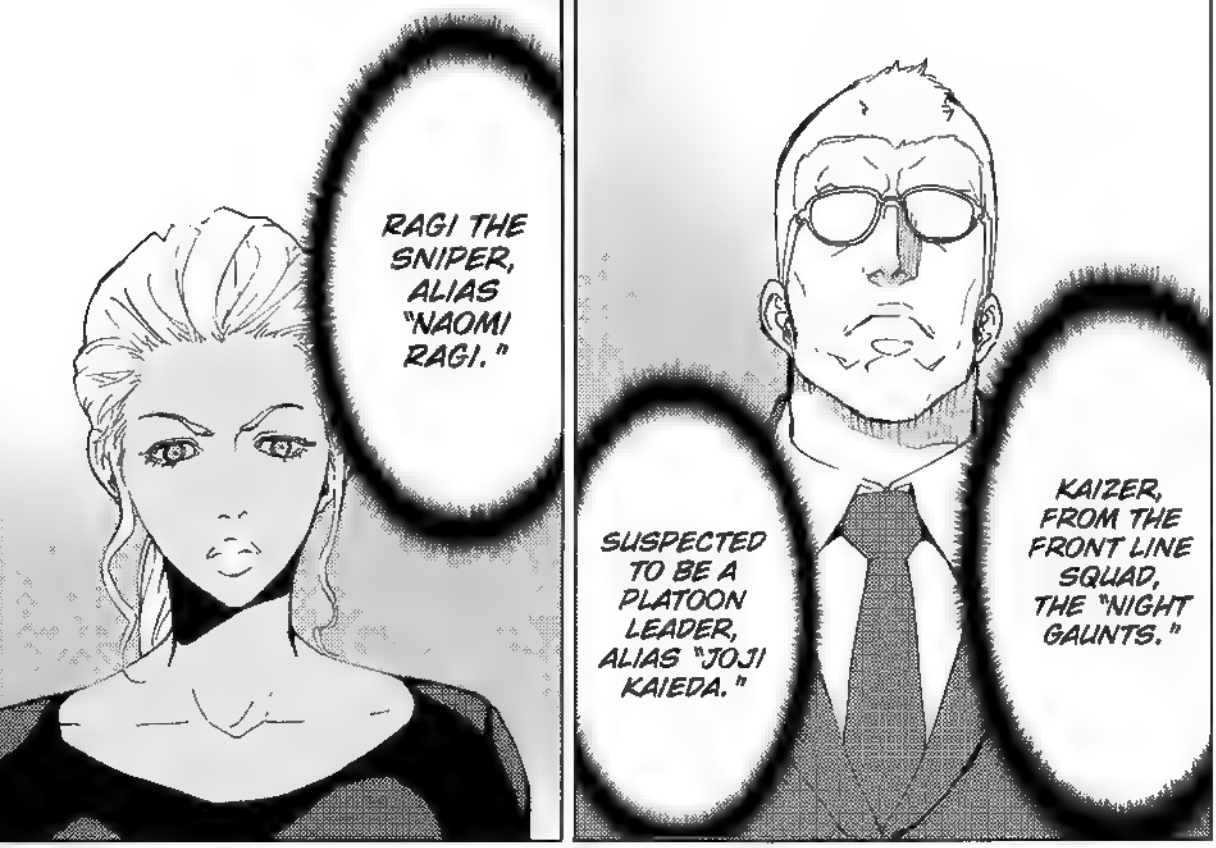
BLACKBOARD: ANNA KITAGAMI / HARUKA TOOYAMA
GAYA (RUMBLE)
ガヤ
GAYA
ガヤ
...HMMM...
WAI (CHATTER)
ワイ
WAI
ワイ

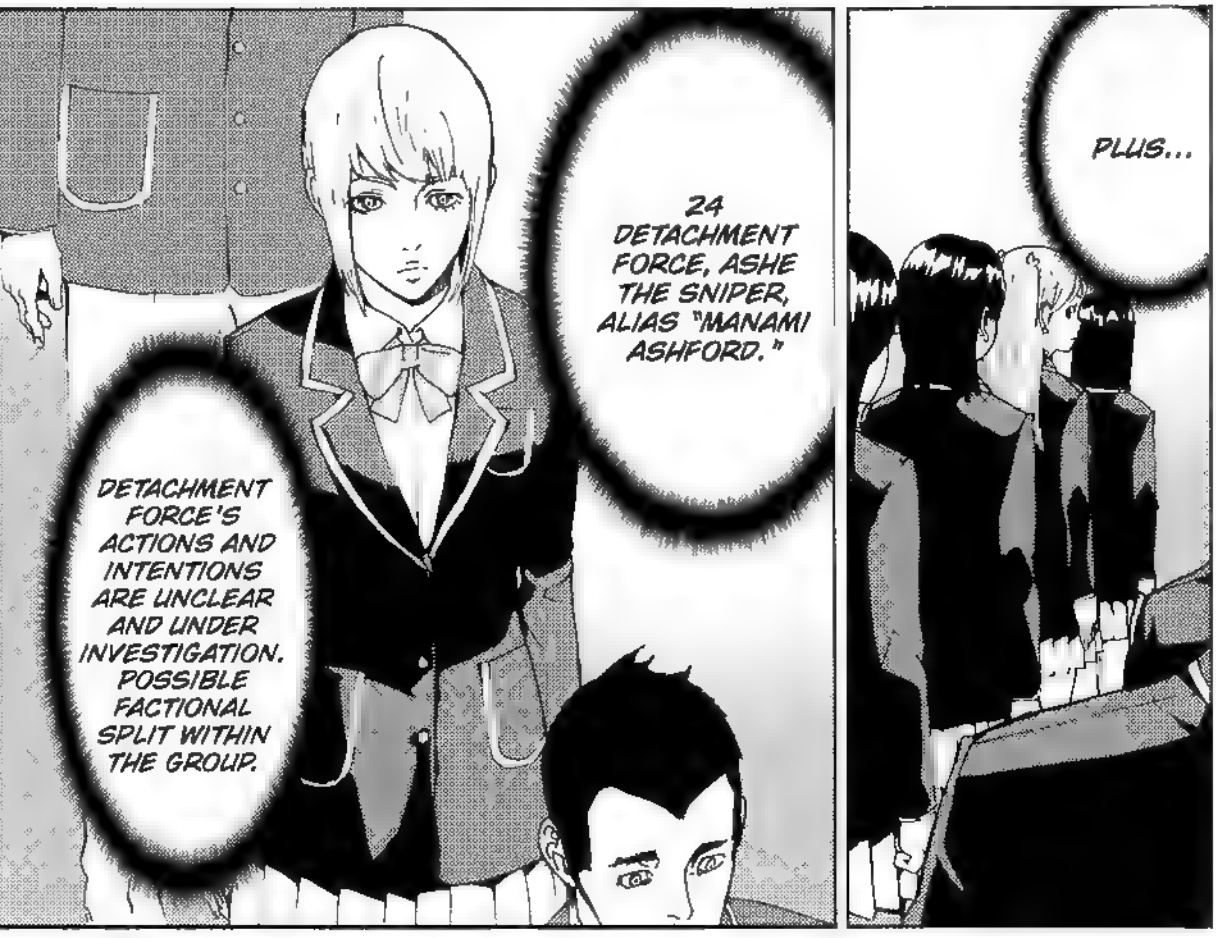
WELL, I MADE IT THROUGH MY FIRST CONTACT WITH CLASSMATES SAFELY...
...
SO THIS IS JESUS ...

KATA
カタ
KATA
(TAP)
カタ
KATA
カタ
MM!?
ZA
ZSH
ザ
ザ

...SHE'S EVEN SHORTER THAN ME...
SHE CAN'T POSSIBLY BE FOUR YEARS OLDER...
OH, BUT...I SHOULDN'T GET TOO CLOSE TO ANYONE HERE...
NIKO (GRIN)
ニコッ

...THAT'S "24"...


RAGI THE SNIPER, ALIAS "NAOMI RAGI."
SUSPECTED TO BE A PLATOON LEADER, ALIAS "JOJI KAIEDA."
KAIZER, FROM THE FRONT LINE SQUAD, THE "NIGHT GAUNTS."


24 DETACHMENT FORCE, ASHE THE SNIPER, ALIAS "MANAMI ASHFORD."
DETACHMENT FORCE'S ACTIONS AND INTENTIONS ARE UNCLEAR AND UNDER INVESTIGATION. POSSIBLE FACTIONAL SPLIT WITHIN THE GROUP.
PLUS...

SO BY PURPOSELY DRAGGING OPPOSING PARTIES IN, HE'S CREATED A SITUATION WHERE THE WHOLE SCHOOL HAS TO BE PROTECTED?
LIKE MAMORU-SAN SAID, HE'S VERY CRAFTY.
WHICH MEANS OTHER ENEMIES CAN'T SIMPLY WALTZ IN AND ATTACK.
BUT... "OTHER ENEMIES"? WHO WOULD THAT BE?

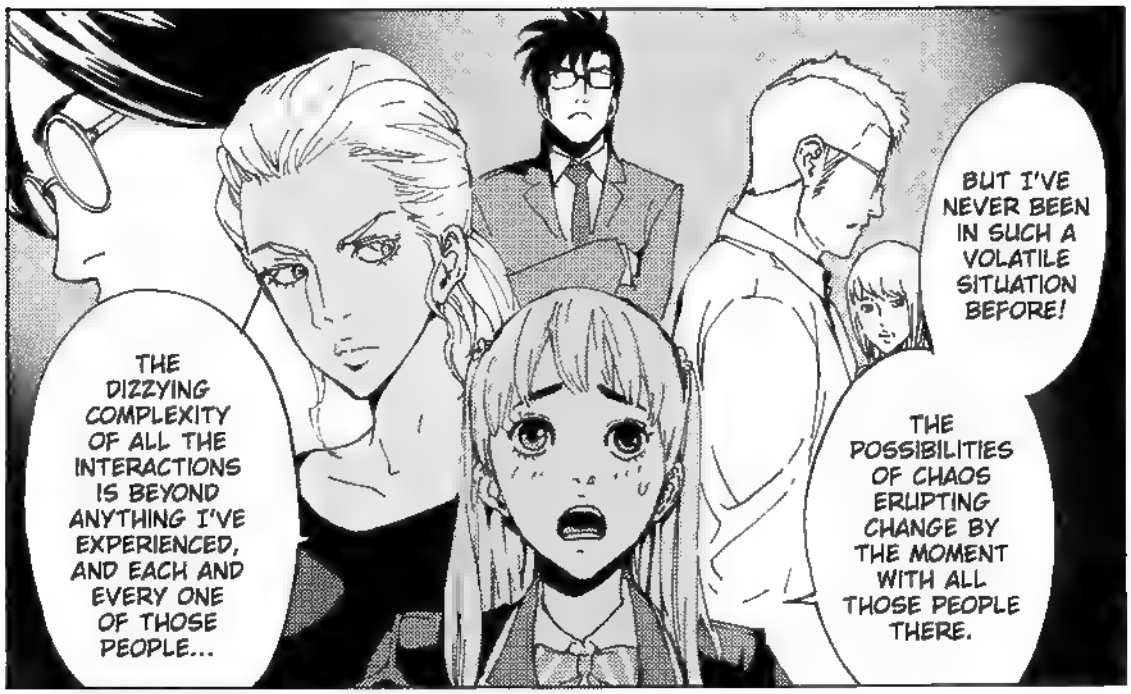
NOW, YOU'LL NEED TO TURN IN YOUR SUMMER VACATION ASSIGNMENTS TO YOUR VARIOUS TEACHERS. ALSO...

ワル
ワル

WHAT A PAIN IN MY ASS...
AND HE WANTS ME TO COME AND SEE WHO IT IS MYSELF?
A WELCOMING PRESENT!?
SORRY, FOLKS. I JUST REMEMBERED I LEFT MY HANDBOOK IN THE FACULTY ROOM.
KURU
7 IL

TA
(DASH)
WHAT HAPPENED !?
HE SAID HE SPOTTED A SUSPICIOUS LURKER AND LEFT HIM IN THE BUSHES BEHIND THE SCHOOL. JESUS IS GOING TO CLEAN THAT SITUATION UP BEFORE ANYONE FINDS OUT.

DOSA (THUD)
GACHA (CLICK)
HAA (HUFF)
...I'M EXHAUST-ED...
WHAT, AFTER HALF A DAY!?
YOU WON'T LAST THREE SCHOOL DAYS WITH NERVES THAT WEAK.


THE DIZZYING COMPLEXITY OF ALL THE INTERACTIONS IS BEYOND ANYTHING I'VE EXPERIENCED, AND EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE...
BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN IN SUCH A VOLATILE SITUATION BEFORE!
THE POSSIBILITIES OF CHAOS ERUPTING CHANGE BY THE MOMENT WITH ALL THOSE PEOPLE THERE.

I SEE... INTERLOCKING BALANCES OF LIFE OR DEATH. FASCINATING SCENARIO.
AND YOU'RE PROBABLY THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WORLD WHO CAN SEE IT ALL UNFOLDING.

...IS A POWERFUL AND POTENT AGENT...
...CAPABLE OF CHANGING THE FUTURE ON THEIR OWN?
THEN YOU KNOW HOW HARD THIS IS ON ME! CAN'T YOU BE A LITTLE BIT NICER?

HAAA (SIGH)

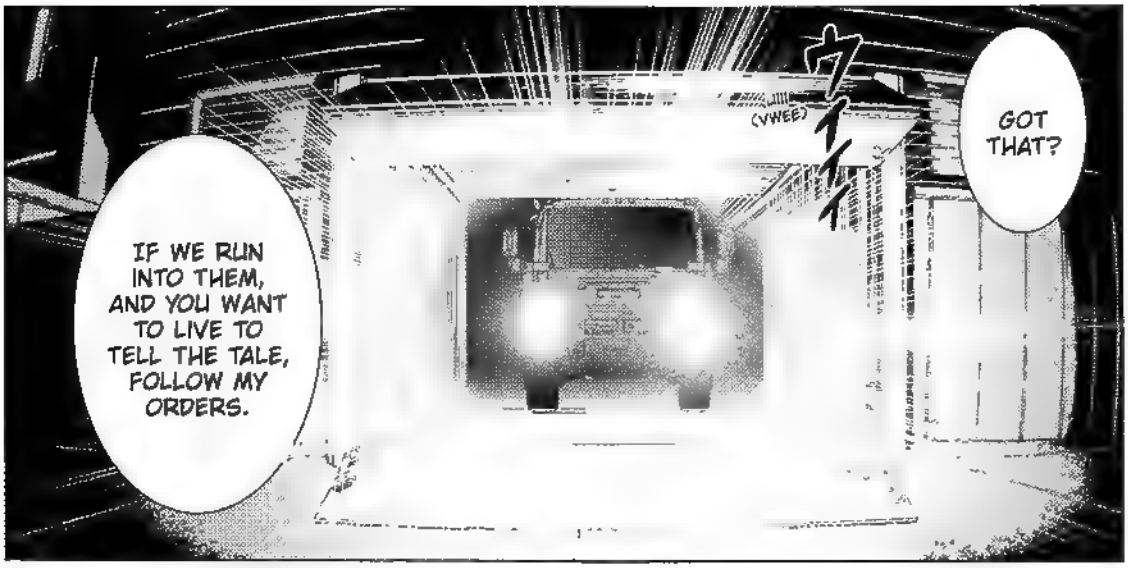
WHY WOULD I LIE ABOUT IT?
IGAWA STOCKED US WITH PLENTY OF GROCERIES. WHAT'S YOUR PLEASURE?
TONIGHT'S A SPECIAL DINNER. I'M FIXING IT. PUT YOUR FEET UP FOR A BIT.
GABA (POP)
ガバッ
HUH!? REALLY!?
UMM ...
I WANT ...
YOU SAID I COULD HAVE ANYTHING I WANTED!!
...
THAT'S A TALL ORDER FOR A COOK WHO CAN'T SEE...
...CABBAGE ROLLS IN WHITE STEW!

YIPPEE!
♡
...
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, DON'T CRY ME A RIVER.
BUT I'VE NEVER MADE THAT DISH, ALL RIGHT?
YOU HEARD ALL OF THAT, IGAWA-SAN?
Hey, no fair!
MUCH OBLIGED!
DON'T WORRY, I'LL BRING YOU A PORTION WHEN WE'RE DONE.

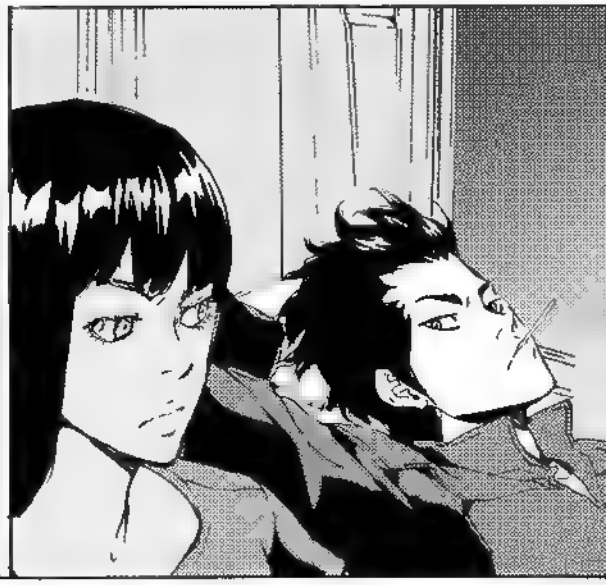
HE MUST JUST HAVE AN INNATE TALENT FOR IT.
HE'S SO WEIRD... HE'LL EAT UTTER SLOP FOR HIMSELF, BUT WHEN HE COOKS, IT TASTES AMAZING SOMEHOW...
IT ONLY LOOKS LIKE SHIT.
ウィィィ
(VVVEE)

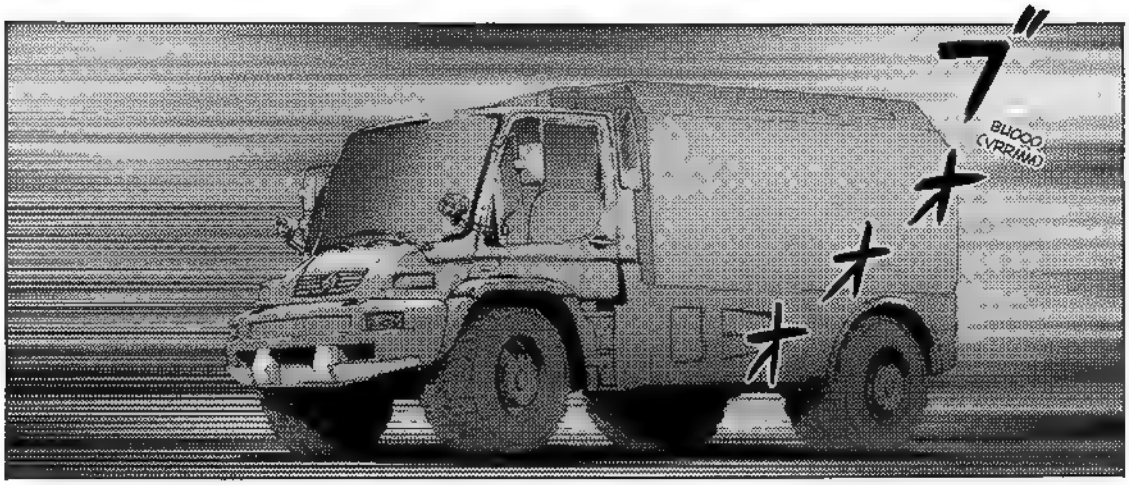
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS PART!?
NO, REALLY...
キュウウウ
KYUUUU (VRR)
THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW...
IGAWA CLAIMS WE HAVE TO DO THIS BECAUSE HE "HAS TO WATCH" THE SYSTEMS OVER THERE.
ブオンッ
BUON (VWUMM)

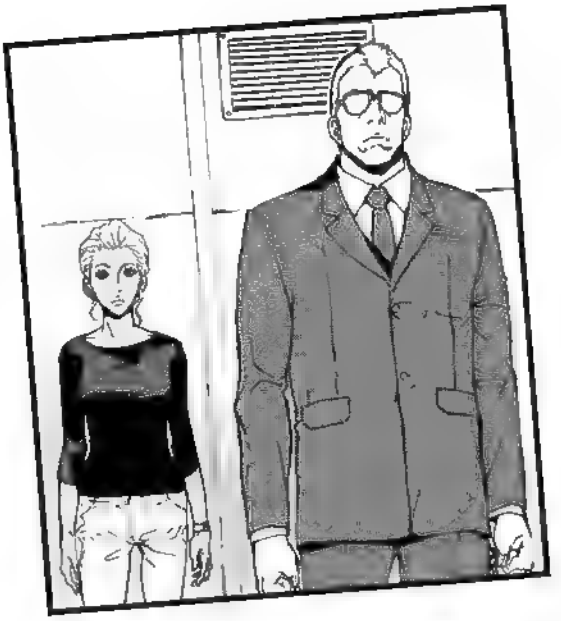
THEY WARNED US ABOUT THE BLACK UNIT IN TONIGHT'S BRIEFING.
GALBOA'S DUHANAN SPECIAL TROOPS ARE AMONG THE MOST DANGEROUS SOLDIERS IN THE WORLD.
WHAT'S WITH THE HARDCORE PREP WORK TONIGHT?
I WOULDN'T WANT TO RUN INTO THEM WITH ANYONE BUT THE WALL AT MY SIDE.
...


IF WE RUN INTO THEM, AND YOU WANT TO LIVE TO TELL THE TALE, FOLLOW MY ORDERS.
(VWEE)
ウィィィ
GOT THAT?

...LOUD AND CLEAR...



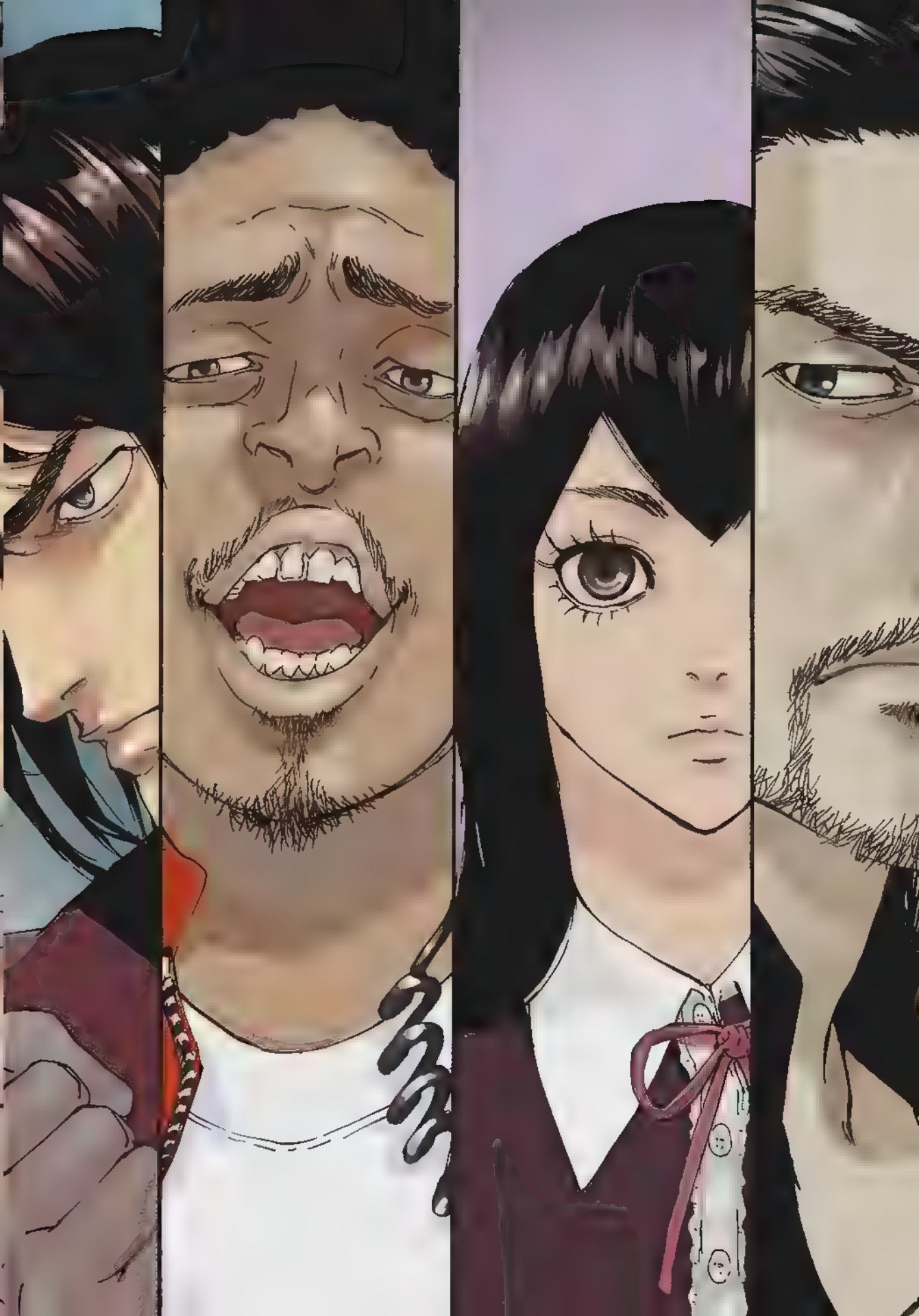

BLOGGL (VRRNM)
ブォォォ



Until
Death
do us
Part

TEA ROOM
SIREN
KII (CREAK)
AH, THERE YOU ARE.

chapter 115

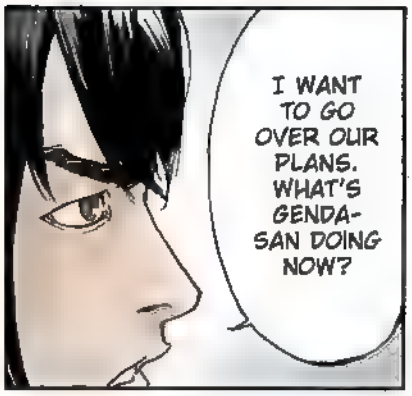


chapter 115

YES. IT TOOK SAWATARI A WHILE TO CONCOCT A SOLVENT FOR THE FOAM, BUT WE MANAGED TO GET IT OFF THIS MORNING.

SO YOU GOT THAT NASTY STUFF OFF?

HE'S GETTING REAMED OUT BY THE SECTION CHIEF RIGHT NOW FOR TAKING MATTERS INTO HIS OWN HANDS.


I WANT TO GO OVER OUR PLANS. WHAT'S GENDA-SAN DOING NOW?

HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO VISIT POLICE HEAD-QUARTERS AFTER HE DROPPED ME OFF AT SCHOOL.

KNOWING GENDA-SAN, I'M SURE HE'S NOT FAZED IN THE LEAST.
BUT BETWEEN THAT AND THE REPORTS TO FILL OUT, HE WON'T BE BACK FOR A WHILE.
SUCKS TO BE ON THE FORCE.
MUST BE TOUGH ON HIS WIFE...
WAIT, YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
HE CAN'T EVEN SLEEP EASY AT NIGHT KNOWING THAT CRIMINALS ARE FREE TO PROWL THE STREETS WHILE HE'S RESTING.
GENDA-SAN'S GOT A STRONG HONORABLE STREAK.
HE GOT DIVORCED ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO.

HE COULD HAVE BEEN THE GREATEST SWORDSMAN IN THE NATION BY NOW, BUT HE PUTS HIS JOB FIRST AND NEVER GETS TO COMPETE.
HE ONLY TAKES A VACATION WHEN HE'S BEING DISCIPLINED. ON TOP OF THAT, HE VALUES THE WORK ABOVE ALL ELSE, WITH NO INTEREST IN PROMOTIONS.
THIS IS A GUY WHO WAS BORN TO BE A DETECTIVE.

I'M SURE HE'S QUITE FOND OF YOU TOO, ANNA-CHAN.

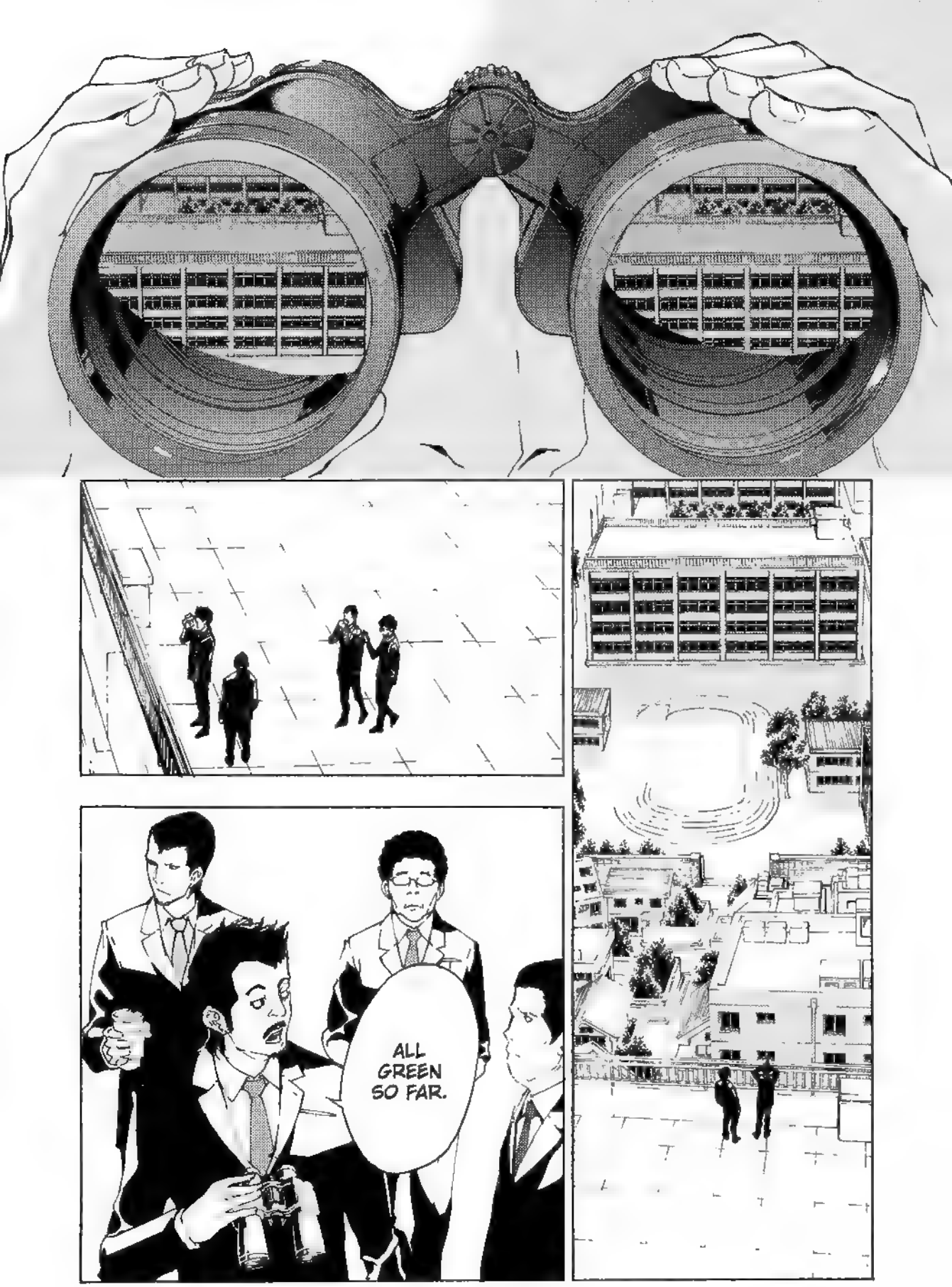
PROBABLY BARELY EVER SEES HIS DAUGHTER.
WHICH IS WHY I THINK HE CARES FOR HARUKA TOOYAMA SO MUCH— SHE'D BE ABOUT HER AGE.

...

I SEE... NO, HE CAN'T TURN BACK...
AFTER ALL THE THINGS I'VE SACRIFICED FOR THIS, I CAN'T CHANGE COURSE NOW.
NO.
...
IF YOU'RE JUST A COWORKER, WHY DO YOU PUT YOURSELF AT RISK ASSISTING HIM ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY?
TRUST ME, IF IT GETS DANGEROUS, I'M OUT!
LET'S JUST SAY... HE'S GOT ISSUES.
EVEN THE SECTION CHIEF IS SECRETLY ROOTING GENDA-SAN ON. HE JUST HAS TO UPHOLD THE OFFICE BY CHEWING HIM OUT.

SO MUCH SO THAT THERE ARE "GENDA CLUBS" IN THE VARIOUS DIVISIONS.
YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW POPULAR HE IS ON THE FORCE.
HE MIGHT HAVE ISSUES AS A HUMAN BEING, BUT A LOT OF PEOPLE WANT TO BE THE KIND OF COP HE IS.
OH, PLEASE.
I DON'T BELONG IN THE SAME COMPANY AS SPECIAL GUYS LIKE HIM.
THAT MEANS YOU'RE PRETTY FAR OFF THE BEATEN PATH TOO.
AND YOU'RE ONE OF THEM.

AFTER ALL...
...WE'RE JUST PLAIN OLD POLICE.
IN THAT CASE, LET'S TRY TO RUSTLE UP A CLUE OR TWO BEFORE HE ARRIVES.
SIR, YES, SIR!!
...


ALL GREEN SO FAR.

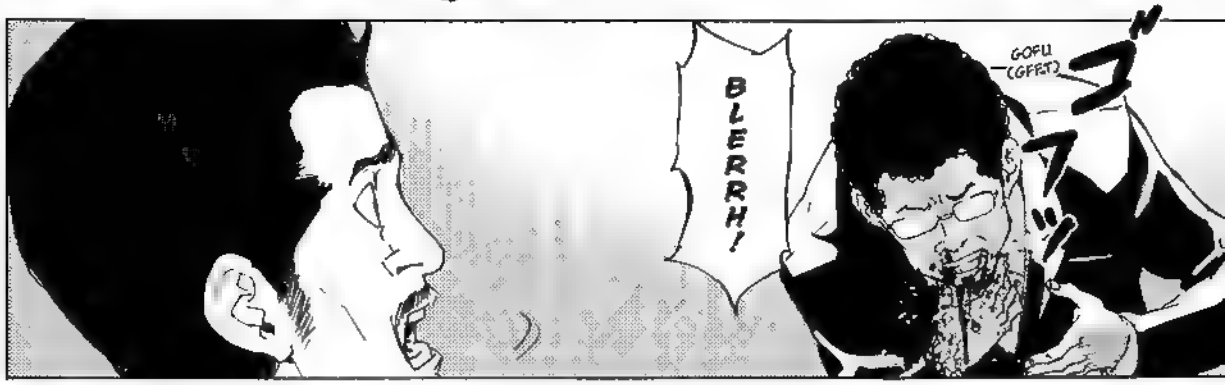
SEEMS LIKE SOME FOLKS WITHOUT PROPER INTEL ACTUALLY TRIED TO GET IN CLOSE...
THESE GUYS MUST BE MONSTERS IF THIS IS AS CLOSE AS WE CAN GET WITHOUT DRAWING ATTENTION.
THIS IS OUR THIRD DAY WITHOUT TROUBLE, SO MAYBE THE SITUATION'S STABLE.
YO FELLAS, WE ON THE STAKEOUT TIP?
...BUT ASIDE FROM ONE ISOLATED INCIDENT, NONE HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT.
BA (WHOOSH)

YOU'RE SQUATTIN' SOME PRIME REAL ESTATE DIG? YOU WANNA MOVE ALONG?
IF YOU WON'T CLEAR OUT WE GOTTA PERFORM AN EVIC-TION.
WE DON'T WANT HIM DRAWING ATTENTION TO US. GET RID OF HIM.
THE HELL IS HE TALKING ABOUT?

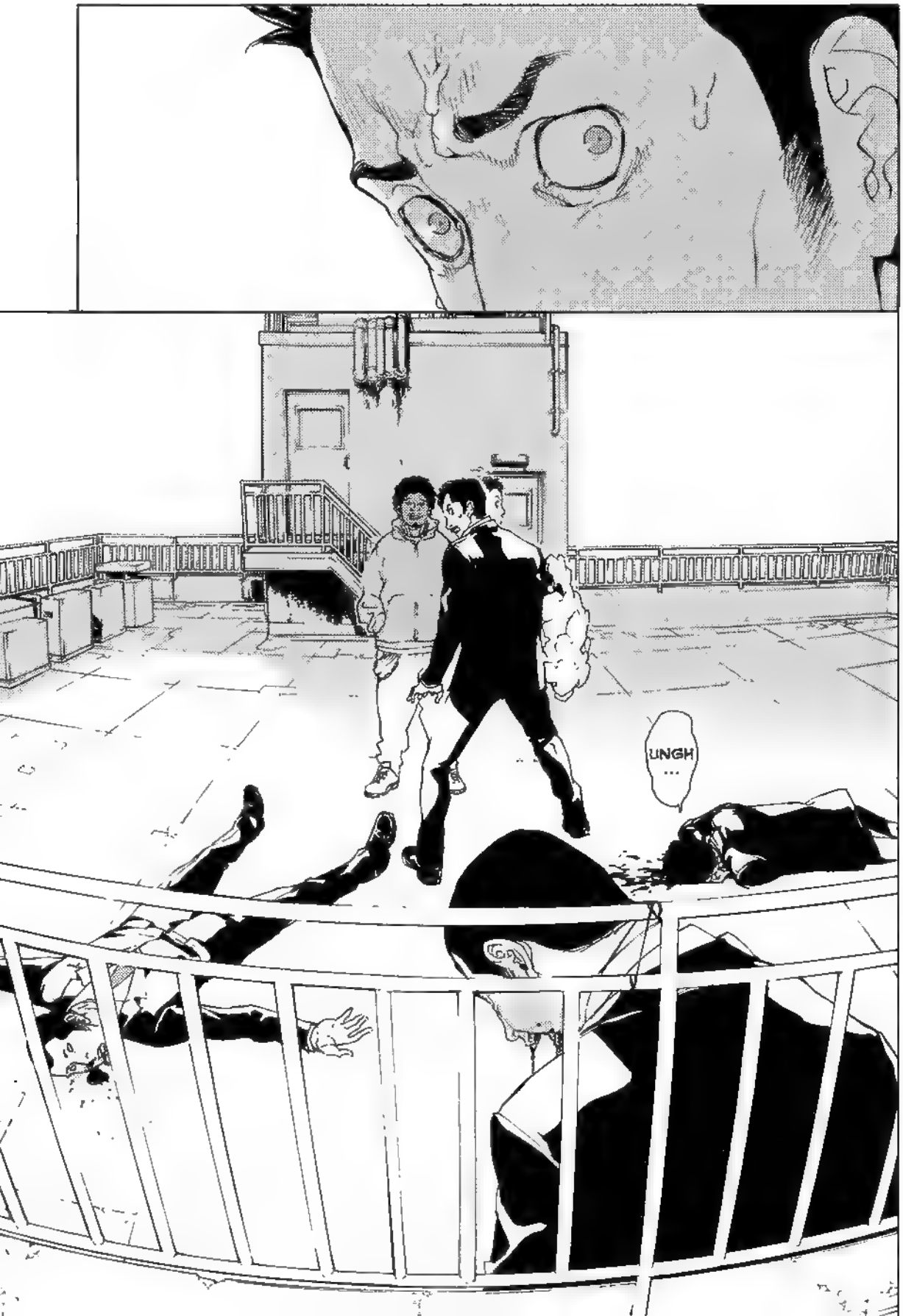
GOKI (CRAKK)
UH?
WHAT THE FUCK DID YOU JUST DO!?
DOSA (THWUD)

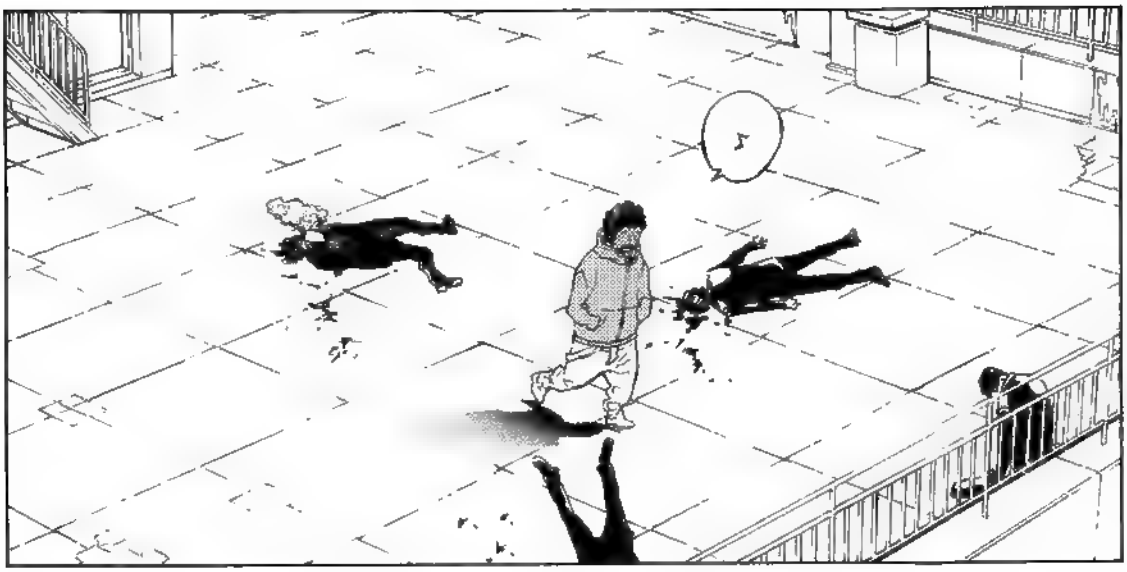
WHOA!
BUWA (BWOOSH)
KYURU (SHKK)
キュルッ
WHA—!?

GUN (YANK)


BLERRH!
GOFU (GFFT)
ゴフッ

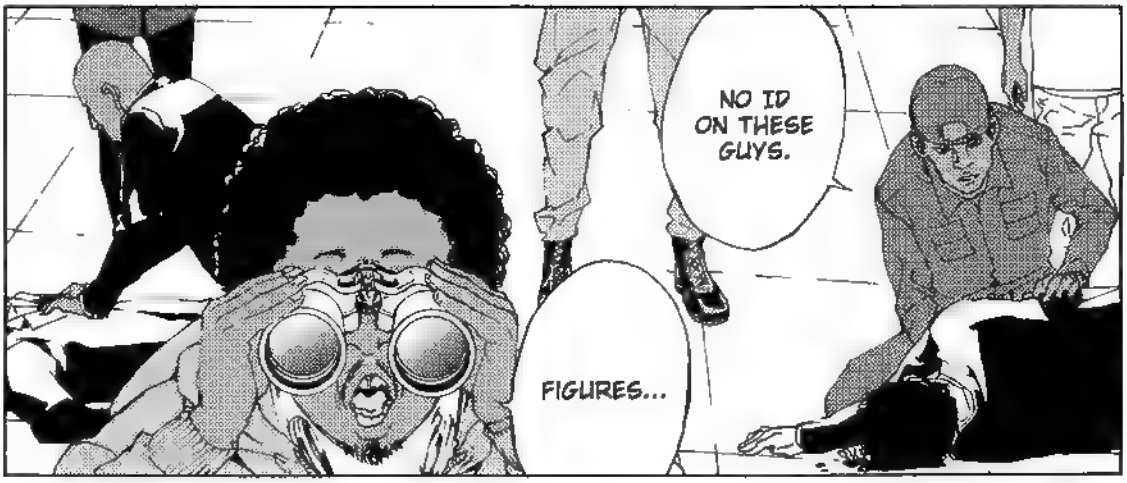
ABRA-CADABRA, BITCHES.

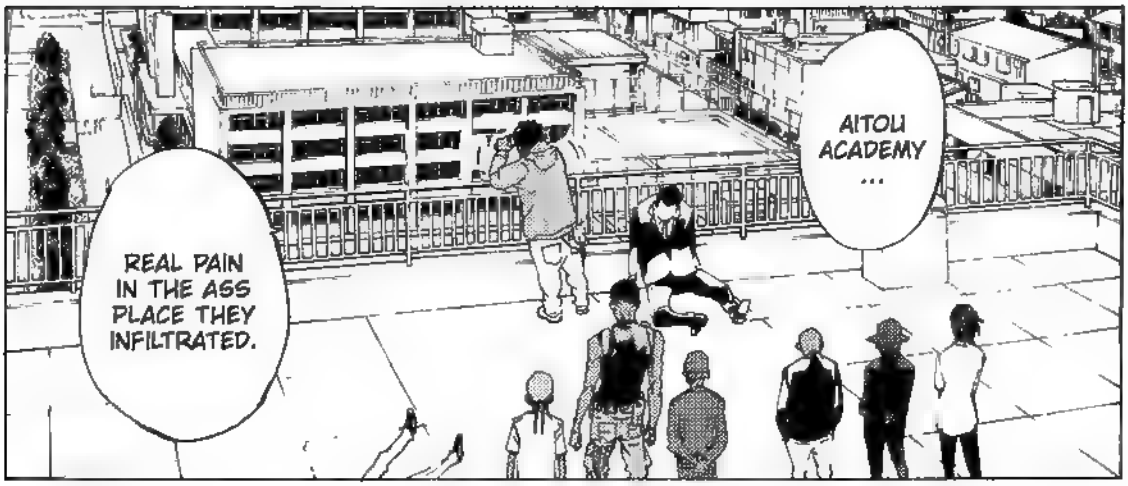

UNGH
...



NU
(MMPH)
ヌッ

TA
(CHOP)
タッ


NO ID ON THESE GUYS.
FIGURES...


AITOU ACADEMY ...
REAL PAIN IN THE ASS PLACE THEY INFILTRATED.

ALL KINDS OF FOLKS KEEPIN' TABS ON THIS ONE.
WELL, WELL.
OOH.

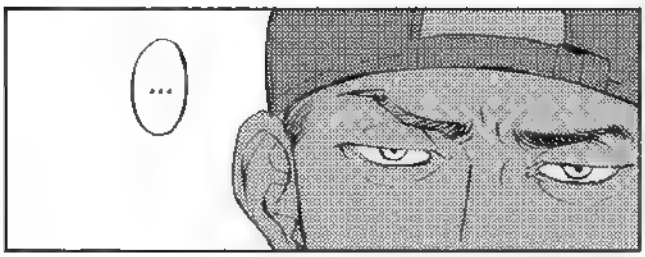
JESUS, THE NIGHT GAUNTS— WE AIN'T AFRAID OF NOBODY.

JESUS. THE NIGHT GAUNTS— WE AIN'T AFRAID OF NOBODY.

...
THAT AEGIS DUDE FROM THE OTHER DAY WASN'T TOO BAD, RIGHT, GARA?
IF YOU SAY THE WORD, WE CAN BRING YOU THE HEAD OF EVERY SINGLE PERSON IN THAT SCHOOL WITHIN AN HOUR, GENIE.
BUT WHEN YOU GET INTO THE BUSINESS, STUFF STARTS TO MATTER. CUSTOMS, EXPECTATIONS, THE PROPER ORDER OF THINGS—ALL THAT SHIT.
YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW THAT?
Y'ALL ARE THE ACES UP MY SLEEVE.

GETTIN' IN AN ALL-OUT WAR WITH THE LIKES OF THEM ONLY HURTS OUR BUSINESS.
THIS IS A FOREIGN COUNTRY— IT'S HOME TURF FOR 24 AND CIRO.

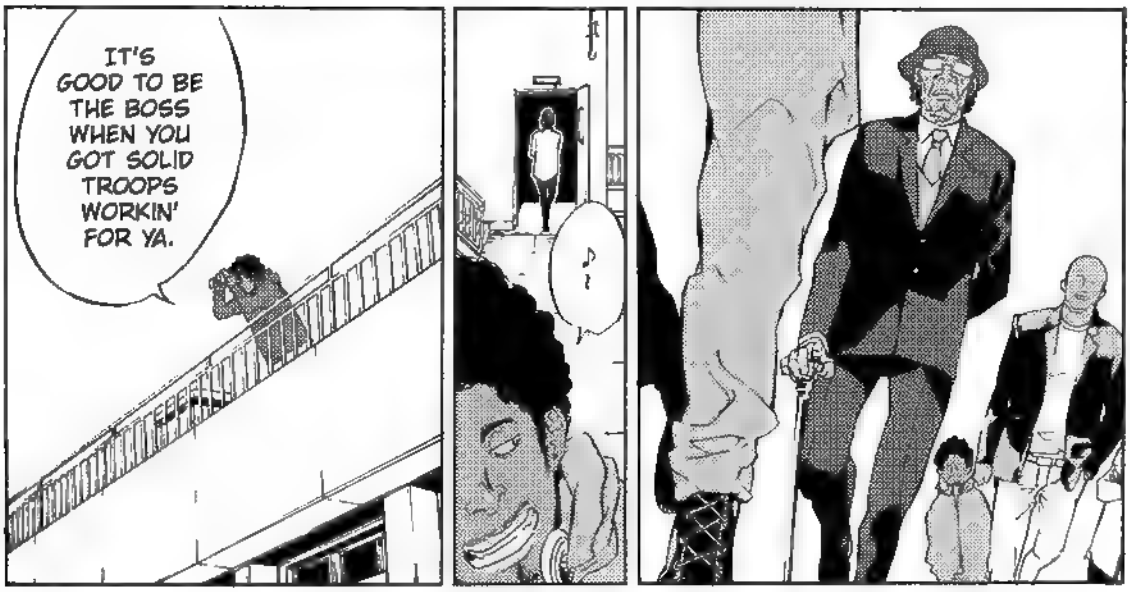
CIRO: CABINET INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH OFFICE



...LEFT THE TROOP AND ACTED AS NAMELESS ROGUE ASSASSINS?
THEN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE ACES UP THE SLEEVE...
ALL RIGHT, YOU'RE ON. JUST ONE THING...
SHIEDABRA'S RIGHT. IT'S CHILD'S PLAY FOR THE SEVEN OF US TOGETHER. JUST CUT US LOOSE AND TURN A BLIND EYE.
HUH?
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT, ZELM? IT AIN'T GONNA BE EASY.

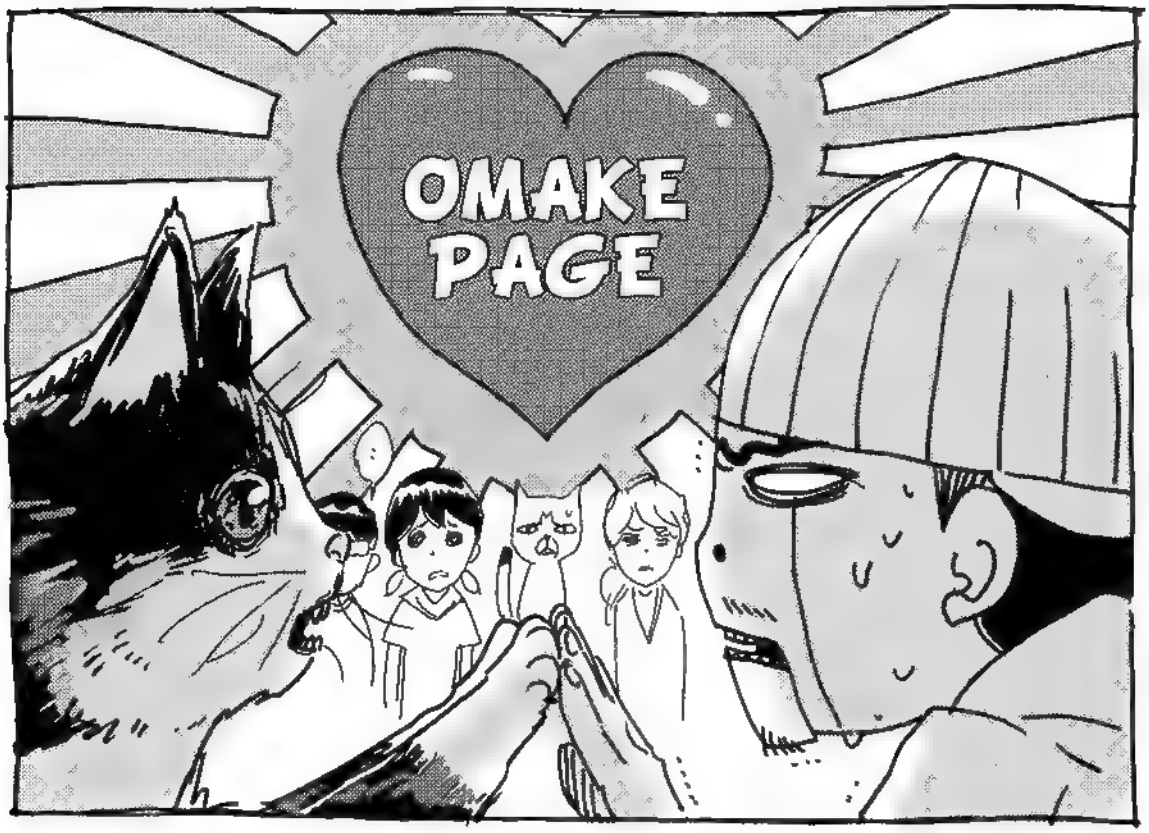
NO BOMBS, HEAR?
THEY AIN'T A SURE BET, THEY'RE MESSY, AND THEY NEED LOTS OF EXCUSES.
AND DON'T GET TOO HAPPY WITH THE KILLING. IF THE OTHER GROUPS ALL GET WIPED OUT, EVERYONE KNOWS IT WAS US BY PROCESS OF ELIMINATION.
THE WORLD'S ALREADY PREDISPOSED TO BLAMIN' FOLKS LIKE US.

MAKE IT A NICE CLEAN HIT.

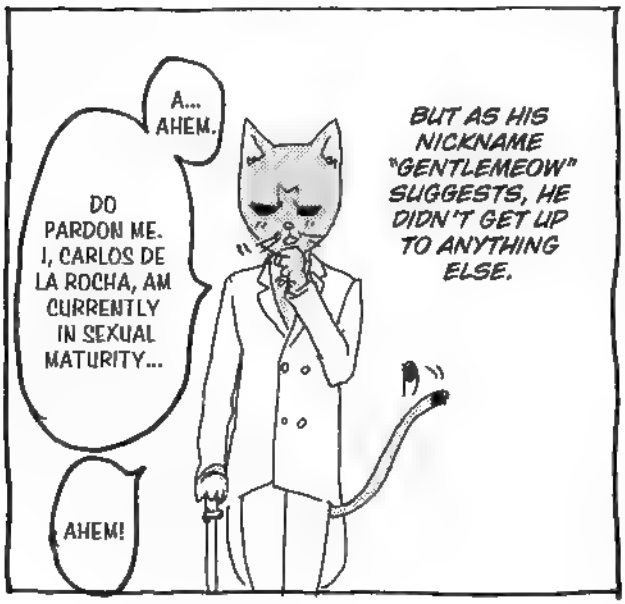

IT'S GOOD TO BE THE BOSS WHEN YOU GOT SOLID TROOPS WORKIN' FOR YA.
♪

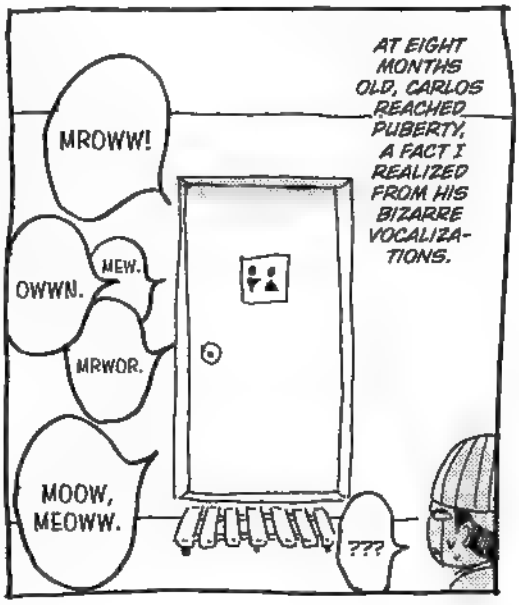
WHO'LL GET THE SAMURAI...
WHAT'S THE PLAN, THEN?
KO (TOKU)
コッ
KO
コッ
...LET'S MAKE IT A CONTEST.
until death do us part 7 — end

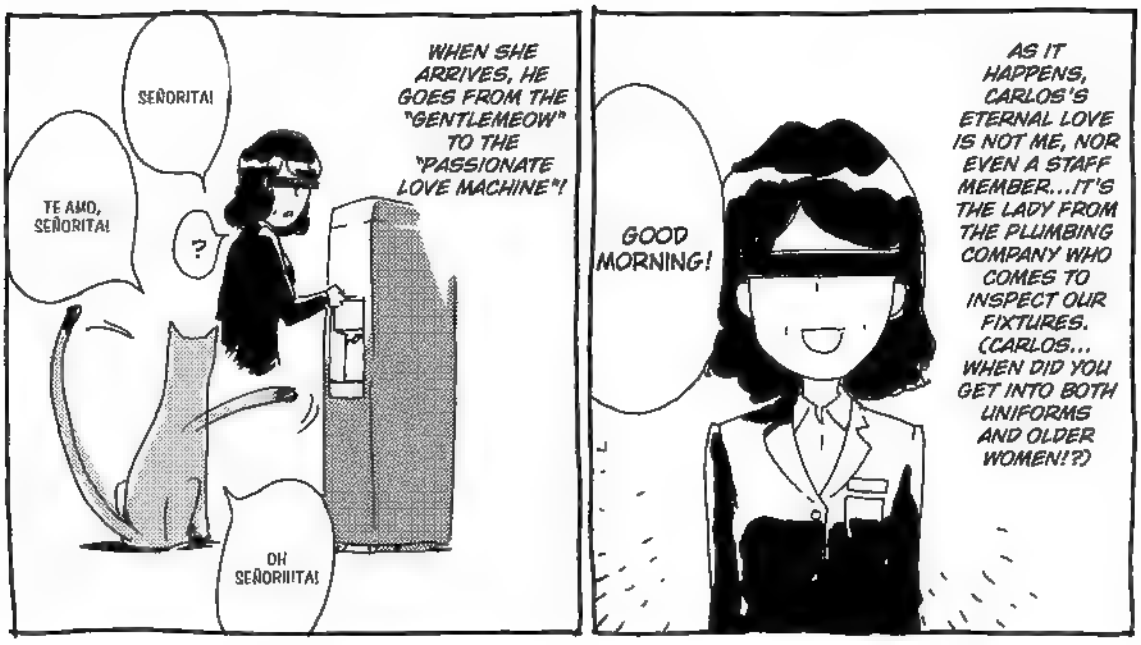
Until
Death
do us
Part



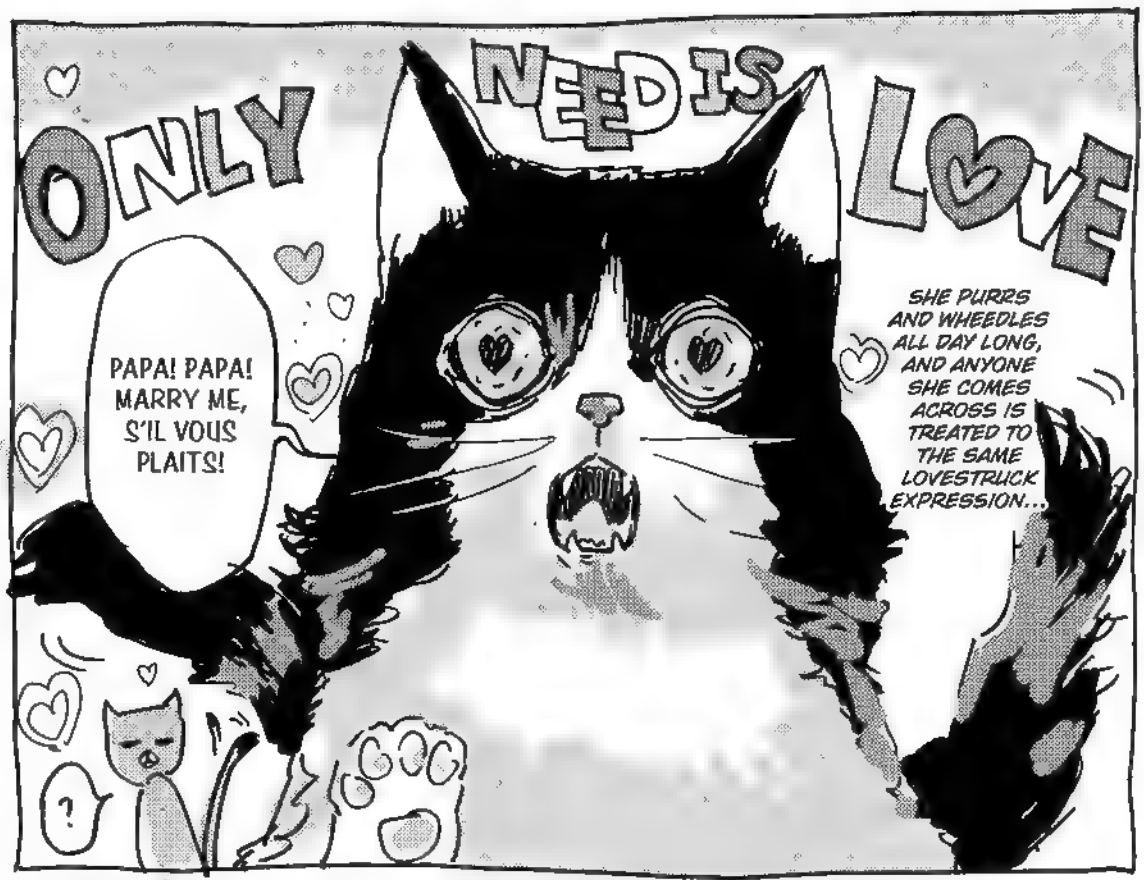
THIS IS THE STORY OF CARLOS AND CATHERINE, DOUBLE-S'S CATS, AND THEIR TRAGICOMIC LOVE LIVES...


A... AHEM.
DO PARDON ME. I, CARLOS DE LA ROCHA, AM CURRENTLY IN SEXUAL MATURITY...
AHEM!
BUT AS HIS NICKNAME "GENTLEMEOW" SUGGESTS, HE DIDN'T GET UP TO ANYTHING ELSE.

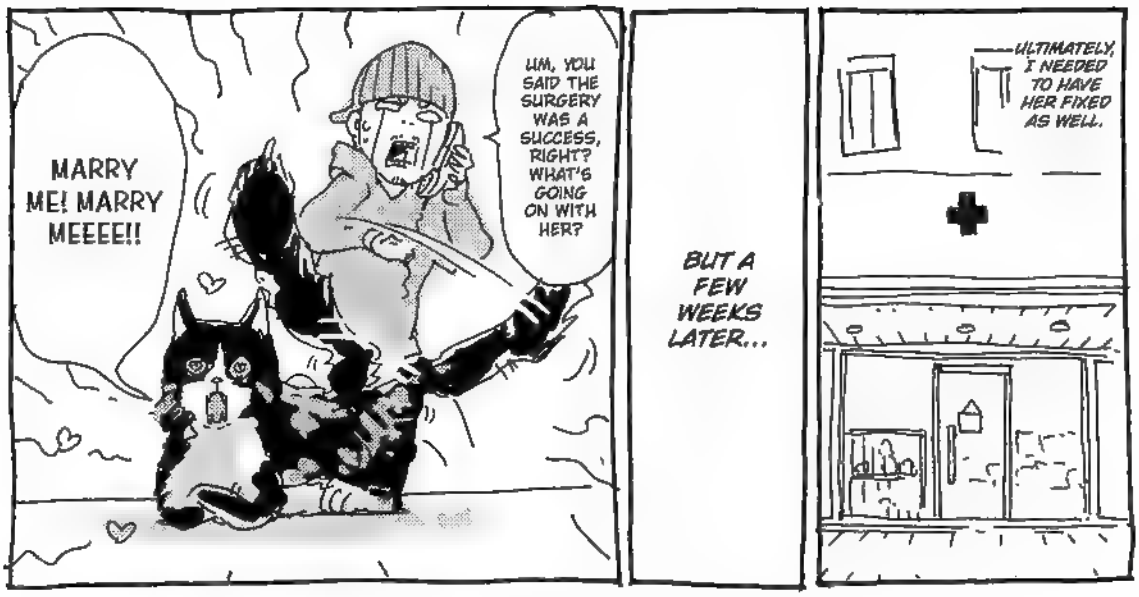



SEÑORITA!
TE AMO, SEÑORITA!
?
OH SEÑORIITA!
WHEN SHE ARRIVES, HE GOES FROM THE "GENTLEMEOW" TO THE "PASSIONATE LOVE MACHINE"!
GOOD MORNING!
AS IT HAPPENS, CARLOS'S ETERNAL LOVE IS NOT ME, NOR EVEN A STAFF MEMBER...IT'S THE LADY FROM THE PLUMBING COMPANY WHO COMES TO INSPECT OUR FIXTURES. (CARLOS... WHEN DID YOU GET INTO BOTH UNIFORMS AND OLDER WOMEN!?)

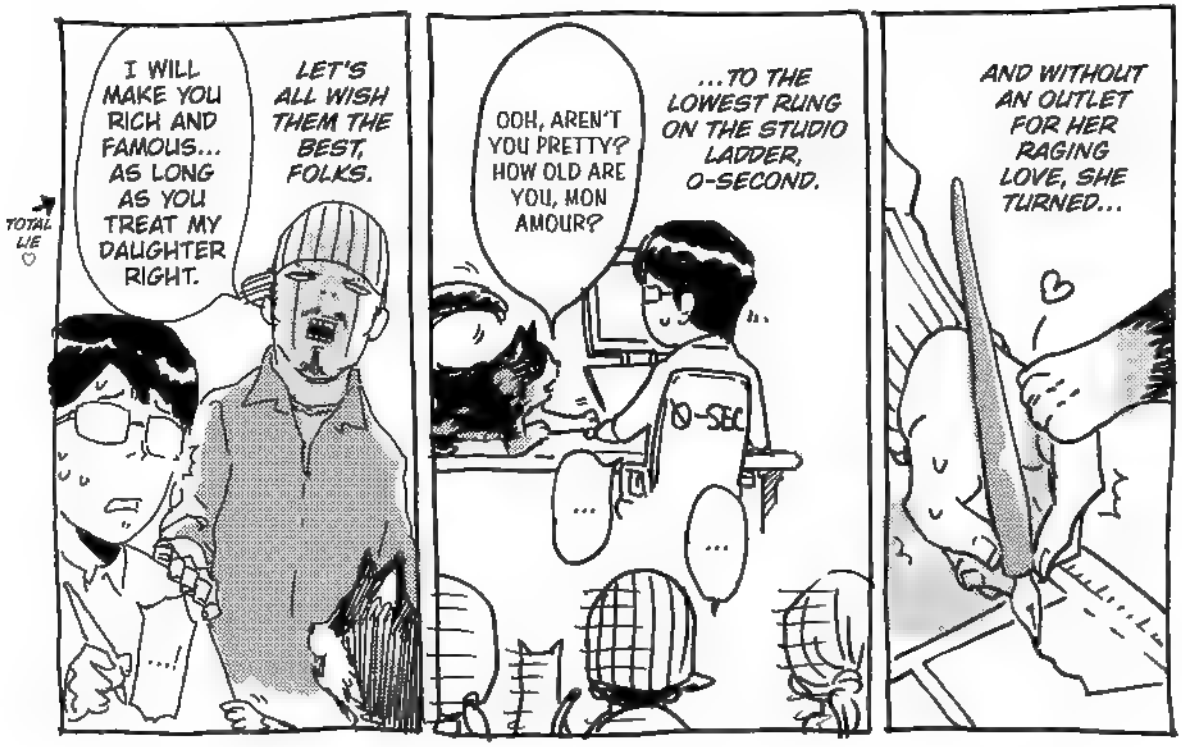
BUT IT'S MY OTHER CAT, CATHERINE...WHOSE ISSUES WITH GOING INTO HEAT ARE A HUNDRED TIMES WORSE THAN ANYTHING I COULD IMAGINE...

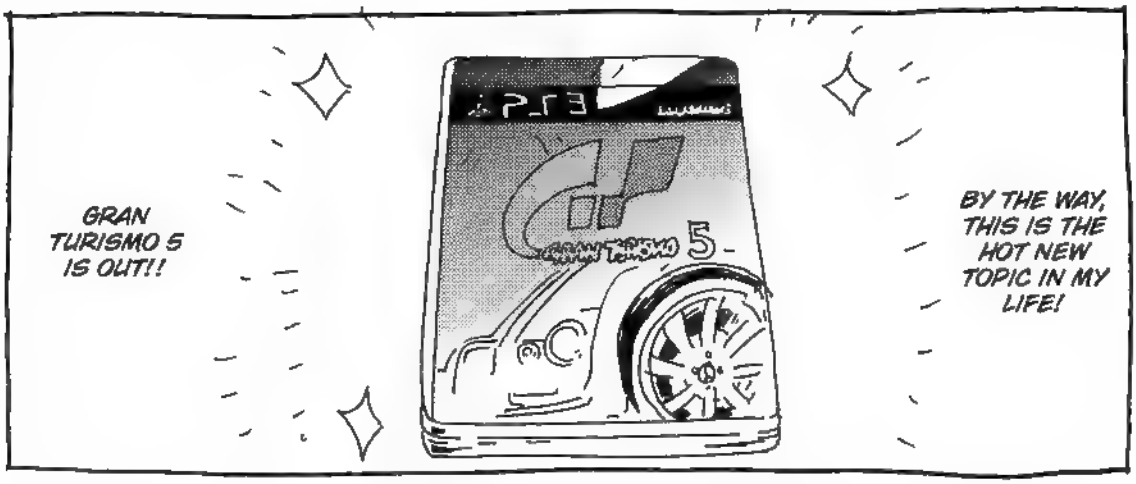

ONLY NEED IS LOVE
PAPA! PAPA! MARRY ME, S'IL VOUS PLAITS!
?
SHE PURRS AND WHEEDLES ALL DAY LONG, AND ANYONE SHE COMES ACROSS IS TREATED TO THE SAME LOVESTRUCK EXPRESSION...

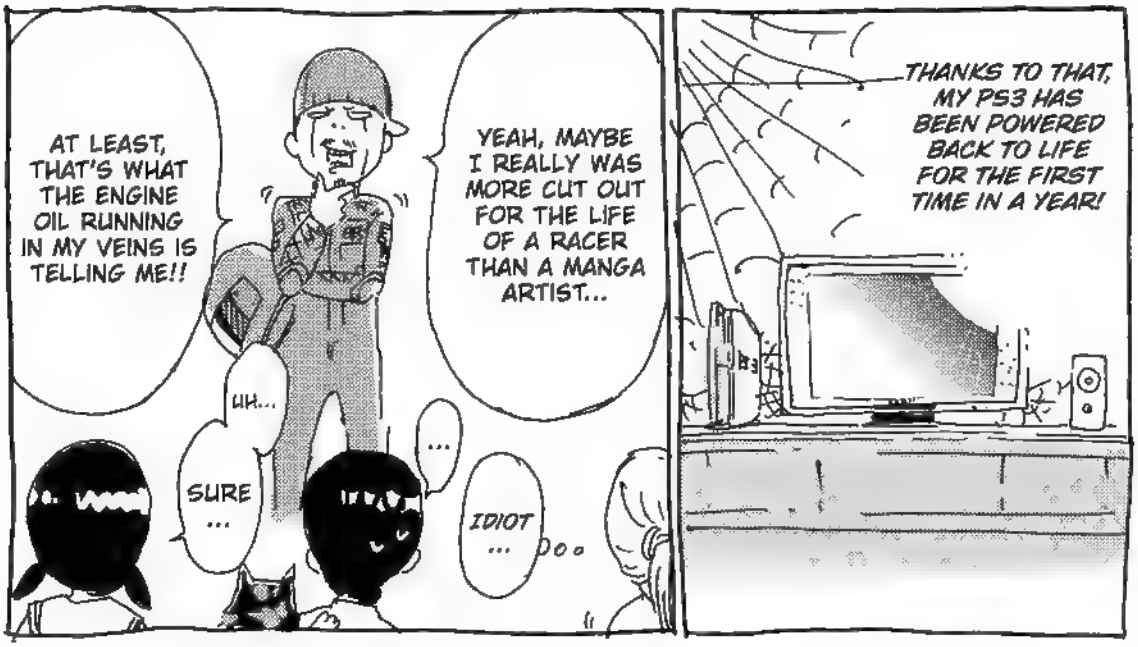
MR. CARLOS IS ALREADY FIXED

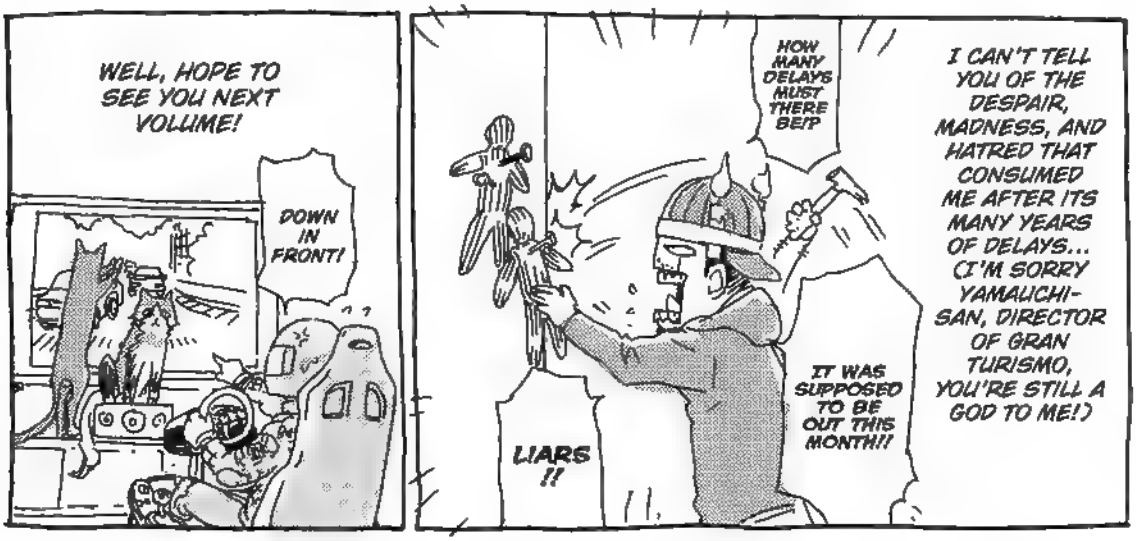

MARRY ME! MARRY MEEEE!!
UM, YOU SAID THE SURGERY WAS A SUCCESS, RIGHT? WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HER?
BUT A FEW WEEKS LATER...
ULTIMATELY, I NEEDED TO HAVE HER FIXED AS WELL.

IT WAS APPARENTLY THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO FOR A STERILIZATION: THE SIDE EFFECTS CAUSED HER APPETITE TO GROW, SHE GAINED A TON OF WEIGHT, AND HER HEAT ISSUES GOT EVEN WORSE...


I WILL MAKE YOU RICH AND FAMOUS... AS LONG AS YOU TREAT MY DAUGHTER RIGHT.
LET'S ALL WISH THEM THE BEST, FOLKS.
TOTAL LIE ♡
OOH, AREN'T YOU PRETTY? HOW OLD ARE YOU, MON AMOUR?
...TO THE LOWEST RUNG ON THE STUDIO LADDER, 0-SECOND.
0-SEC
AND WITHOUT AN OUTLET FOR HER RAGING LOVE, SHE TURNED...


GRAN TURISMO 5 IS OUT!!
PS3
GRAN TURISMO 5
BY THE WAY, THIS IS THE HOT NEW TOPIC IN MY LIFE!


AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT THE ENGINE OIL RUNNING IN MY VEINS IS TELLING ME!!
UH...
SURE...
YEAH, MAYBE I REALLY WAS MORE CUT OUT FOR THE LIFE OF A RACER THAN A MANGA ARTIST...
...
IDIOT...
THANKS TO THAT, MY PS3 HAS BEEN POWERED BACK TO LIFE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A YEAR!


WELL, HOPE TO SEE YOU NEXT VOLUME!
DOWN IN FRONT!
HOW MANY DELAYS MUST THERE BE!?
LIARS!!
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE OUT THIS MONTH!!
I CAN'T TELL YOU OF THE DESPAIR, MADNESS, AND HATRED THAT CONSUMED ME AFTER ITS MANY YEARS OF DELAYS... (I'M SORRY YAMAUCHI-SAN, DIRECTOR OF GRAN TURISMO, YOU'RE STILL A GOD TO ME!)

Art Staff
Suri ♀: Chief Assistant
0-Second ♂: Background Art
Taurus ♀: Background Art

Military Advisor
Lee Hyun Seok (warmania)

SPECIAL THANKS
Shingo Takano

Crossover Planning
JESUS—Sajin Kouro, Yami no Aegis, Akatsuki no Aegis
Written by Kyouichi Nanatsuki,
Art by Yoshihide Fujiwara
(Shogakukan)

Design Assistance
Hitoshi Fukuchi

Until
Death
do us
Part

Translation Notes

Common Honorifics
no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.
***-san*:** The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.
***-sama*:** Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.
***-kun*:** Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.
***-chan*:** An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.
***-senpai*:** A suffix used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.
***-sensei*:** A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

Yen conversion: While exchange rates fluctuate daily, a convenient conversion estimation is about ¥100 to 1 USD.

Page 58
Kaddas: A fictional Middle Eastern country from the setting of the manga *Jesus: Sajin Kouro* (by Kyouichi Nanatsuki and Yoshihide Fujiwara). Like Tate the Aegis from the previous volume, the character of Jesus and the evil Transplant Connection are crossover elements added to *Until Death Do Us Part*.

Page 81
Canes Venatici: The name of this mercenary outfit is also one of the eighty-eight major constellations. The Latin means "The Hunting Dogs."

Page 195
Dotanuki: A type of katana. Dotanuki is the name of a small village that was the home of a famous school/style of blacksmithing that produced many blades notable for their extreme hardiness. In recent years, the word *dotanuki* (spelled with different kanji from the historical blades) has come to signify a specific type of katana in a number of different manga/anime, most notably the blade of Ogami Itto, the main character of *Lone Wolf and Cub*.

Page 236
Suio style: An actual sword school dating back to the seventeenth century, specializing in *iaijutsu*, the art of quick-drawing the sword. The style's name means "water gull," because the founder dreamed of his skill being as effortless as a gull skimming over the water's surface. Similar to the use of *dotanuki*, this name was also used in *Lone Wolf and Cub*, although it was coincidental (author Kazuo Koike made it up before discovering that a real style with the same name existed). In that story, Ogami Itto utilizes the techniques in water similar to the way Mamoru does here.

UNTIL DEATH DO US PART 7

Hiroshi Takashige
DOUBLE-S

Translation: Stephen Paul
Lettering: AndWorld Design

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

UNTIL DEATH DO US PART Vol. 13 and 14 ©2010, 2011 Hiroshi Takashige, DOUBLE-S/SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. First published in Japan in 2010, 2011 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. English translation rights arranged with SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. and Hachette Book Group through Tuttle-Mori Agency, Inc.

Translation ©2014 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.

All rights reserved. In accordance with the U.S. Copyright Act of 1976, the scanning, uploading, and electronic sharing of any part of this book without the permission of the publisher is unlawful piracy and theft of the author's intellectual property. If you would like to use material from the book (other than for review purposes), prior written permission must be obtained by contacting the publisher at permissions@hbgusa.com. Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
237 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017

HachetteBookGroup.com
YenPress.com

Yen Press is an imprint of Hachette Book Group, Inc. The Yen Press name and logo are trademarks of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

The publisher is not responsible for websites (or their content) that are not owned by the publisher.

First Yen Press ebook Edition: September 2014

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-23931-8

App ISBN: 978-0-316-23932-5